



Ornerd

What will Putin do now, asks Paul Wood

JEREMY CLARKE THE NUNS MY NIGHT WITH

BOD FIDDLE KEIR STARMER IN DEFENCE OF

JULIAN JESSOP TRUSSONOMICS TRUST IN



79% of British small business owners said digital skills were essential or important to the day-to-day running of their business.* To help, Google provides free training to people across the UK, from self-guided online courses to one-to-one mentoring – at a time that works for you. Your lunch break, for example.



In search of Trussonomics

government is the solution to every probreform as 'austerity' and accepted that more no good end. They've dismissed spending years have borrowed and spent too, and to does'. But Tory governments over recent

and cutting taxes after wasted years of ter-Osbornomics meant doing the right thing economic policy, whether deserved or not. up with a reputation for his or her particular Every prime minister or chancellor ends care-home costs for wealthier pensioners. the country to reach net zero and subsidising ing ludicrous and unworkable proposals for lem. Boris Johnson was just as bad, mak-

length of the lockdowns – left a bill greater try, but Johnson's response - the extent and The pandemic was a disaster for every counby 'cakeism': borrow, spend, never say no. rified inaction, Johnsonomics was defined

the labour market (especially amongst the that furlough left a deep, distorting effect in that damage. It should mean acknowledging Trussonomics should mean repairing than that facing other economies.

rich and less money needed from others. sponjq see extra tax collected from the supermake this point. Lifting the cap on bonuses to progressive tax rates. It would not hurt to now split 50/50 with the government, thanks unpopular policies. Every banker's bonus is should mean doing a better job of explaining to coax people back to work. Trussonomics over-fifties) and that more needs to be done

The country can't afford anything less. tious enough to achieve the desired results. sure that her growth agenda is bold and ambiposals require big trade-offs. She must make Lines must remember that big spending proeconomic mess that still needs cleaning up, agenda, her government cannot forget the As Truss pushes ahead with her own

> today are scandalously underused. potential workforce, whose talents in Britain

Some of the most motivated people in

heard. Allowing them to support themselves 96,000 waiting to have their asylum cases and forced to stay on benefits: these are the

the country are banned from seeking work

overall principles: that high taxes make The Prime Minister is right to talk about the asylum-seeker. vide relief to the taxpayer and give dignity to way would help to grow the economy, proand their families while the process is under

she had no real pro-growth agenda war of the debates, but the fact is Truss scraped through the soundbite when it gets out of people's way and confis-

way into growth. Government works best

everyone poorer and that you cannot tax your

to state spending. Until this happens, any tax meaningfully happen if cuts are also made cates less of what they earn. But this can only

cnts will be temporary and any pro-growth

thinking, explains on page 14 why he's optihas been influential in the new government's Jessop, one of the economists whose work posal so far is the gas price bailout. Julian The most significant Trussonomics propolicy illusory.

Herbert Morrison famously declared that up larger than any tax cut that is in the offing. example of borrow-and-splurge - will end on current estimates, the price cap – a classic the price of wholesale gas has halved. Still, Studies, Since this estimate was drawn up, price tag feared by the Institute for Fiscal mistic that this won't run up the £150 billion

socialism is what a Labour government

most precious resource of any economy is its help the unemployed into work. The first and decade - there has never been a better time to lion vacancies - twice the average of the past to better effect. In an economy with 1.3 milnb with a plan to use these people's talents has yet to admit to this figure, let alone come are on out-of-work benefits. The government ous 13 per cent of the potential labour force pack is that five million people – a scandal-One of the reasons the economy is being held And it would need to come in many forms. producing the sort of growth he has in mind. need to be a lot more of it to have any hope of side reform' is the remedy, but there will growth, and he's right to say that 'supply-

about a plan to return Britain to 2.5 per cent Kwasi Kwarteng, the Chancellor, talks

tiny tax cut and unlikely to inspire any sort

trust in politics, Truss argued. But this is a

tax. Reneging on manifesto pledges damages

2019 Tory manifesto promised not to raise

Insurance. This she did mainly because the

tax rises and shave I per cent off National

paign was to freeze forthcoming corporation

da. All she pledged to do during her cam-

she had no real pro-growth, tax-cutting agen-

soundbite war of the debates, but the fact is

nomic policy was nowhere near as coherent

ple of Ronald Reagan. But in truth, her eco-

ship campaign as a crazed tax-cutter, a disci-

vice by portraying her throughout the leader-

philosophy. Rishi Sunak did her a great ser-

winning and without any serious guiding

her campaign with no real expectation of

as 'Trussonomics'. She began

ship race there was no such thing

Then Liz Truss entered the leader-

Truss just about scraped through the

of economic growth.

as Sunak made out.



first for the chop, perchance? p50 Are the royal pen-makers



Three's company, \$25



Orc-in-chief, pll

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Poems and One Epitaph. She

Lucasta Miller is the author

8idan Hartley, p56

camping near a lake on the

swallowed a German hippie

When I was a boy, a python

recommend twice-weekly sessions.

a lot of reassurance. Poly therapists

agrees, so each poly partner needs

jealousy in polyamory, everyone

There's enormous potential for

Polly Toynbee (yes, hurry, hurry,

Labour conference on the future

of the monarchy, featuring

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get your tickets now!)

Tanzanian border.

of the composer and editor yndergoid rojam a to rothus si Vaughan Williams on p32,

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who writes about the anthem Sir James MacMillan,

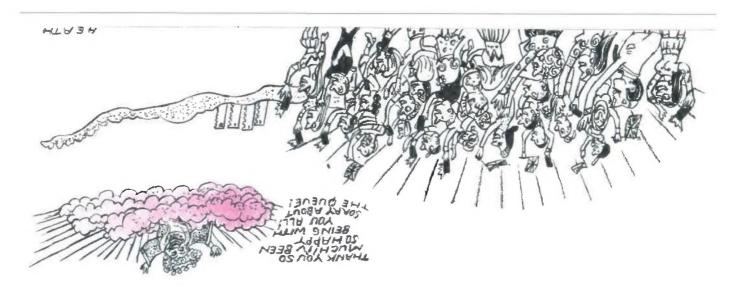
composer and conductor.

editor-at-large of ArtReview. coup in Brazil on p16, is the looks at the possibility of a Oliver Basciano, who

CONTRIBUTORS

kill off the ENO and ENB. he explains why we should Enthralled the World. On p42 How the Ballets Russes author of Diaghilev's Empire: Rupert Christiansen is the

PORTRAIT OF THE WEEK



Luhansk region. Russia's Black Sea fleet relocated some of its submarines from their home port of Sevastopol in Crimea for fear of long-range strikes. Russia called snap plebiscites in occupied Ukrainian territory. The Duma rushed through a bill mobilisation. Mr Putin acknowledged after meeting Xi Jinping in Uzbekistan that China had 'questions and concerna' about Ukraine. Asked what he'd say to the use of tactical nuclear weapons by Mr Putin, will change the face of war unlike anything will change the face of war unlike anything since World War II.'

hurricane cut off the power for the 3.3 million people of Puerto Rico. In Japan nine million people were told to leave their homes as a strong typhoon swept over the country. Clashes on the border of Wyrgyzstan and Tajikistan left more than 90 dead. Banks in Lebanon closed for three days after a series of raids by customers demanding access to their frozen savings.

A sked if America would defend
Mr Biden said: 'Yes, if in fact there was an unprecedented attack.' As China recorded its first case of monkeypox, the chief pridemiologist at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention told people not to have skin-to-skin contact with foreigners. Texas and Arixona sent with foreigners. Texas and Arixona sent with foreigners, and Washington DC, Democrat-controlled Washington DC, Mew York and Chicago; another Republican attack. Florida, did the same thing. CSH

asked but fortunately did not come; US President Joe Biden came but didn't have to travel on a bus with other heads of state.

and Hindus in Leicester led to 47 arrests. Statistics. Public disorder between Muslims in 50) according to the Office for National and in Scotland rose to one in 45 (from one September (from one in 70 a week earlier) Covid fell to one in 75 by the first week in number of people testing positive for by Emmanuel Macron. In England, the European Political Community, hatched for Ukraine. Britain contemplated a new for many years. She pledged more help agreement would be struck with the US to Mr Biden, but declared that no trade Assembly in New York, planning to talk Prime Minister, flew to the UN General a ban on bankers' bonuses. Liz Truss, the of a corporation tax rise and the lifting of National Insurance rise, the postponement event', starting with the abolition of the the Exchequer, prepared this week's 'fiscal scheme. Kwasi Kwarteng, the Chancellor of 1 October under a big government subsidy O of energy prices for six months from usinesses would benefit from a capping

Abroad

Tresident Vladimir Putin called up 300,000 reservists for his war against Ukraine. President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine met soldiers in the recaptured city of Izyum. Hundreds of bodies on the outskirts of the city were exhumed. Ukrainian forces claimed control of the Ukrainian forces claimed control of the

Home

deorge's Chapel, Windsor Castle, beside her husband and father, after a funeral at Westminster Abbey. In the ten days of mourning, six days were devoted to a lying-in-state at Westminster Hall, for which the public queued around the clock, which the public queued around the clock, often for more than five miles and ten hours. A livestream broadcast on television accustomed viewers to Gentlemen at Arms accustomed viewers to Gentlemen at Arms with awan-feather plumes and Yeomen of the Guard with ribboned hats guarding of the Guard with ribboned hats guarding silent and moved.

bin Salman, the ruler of Saudi Arabia, was Vice President Wang Qishan; Mohammed the ruler of China, was invited and sent faults. Foreign royalty attended. Xi Jinping, unu ou the day because of overhead cable a gun saluted. Trains to Paddington did not 45-minute procession Big Ben tolled and some threw flowers. At each minute of the Some in the crowd clapped the coffin, Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex. Wessex, and followed by his sons, the brothers, the Duke of York and Earl of by his sister, the Princess Royal, and his long to the Wellington Arch, accompanied sailors, in a procession a mile and a quarter drawn on the state gun-carriage by 142 he followed Queen Elizabeth's coffin, After the state funeral service at the Abbey meeting crowds and speaking in Welsh. the days of mourning, making speeches, Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff during ing Charles completed a tour to



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DIYKK

Niall Ferguson



recently 'had a very strange phone call with your president'. (The explosive readout of Donald Trump's July call with Zelensky was released ten days later.) That night, by onstage with three other performers in his old comedy show. That jejune Zelensky has been entirely effaced by the war leader fight – 'I need ammunition, not a ride' – staking his life in what seemed to many a doomed last stand against the Russian a doomed last stand against the Russian a doomed last stand against the Russian imperial steamroller. In an age when the democratic world has grown accustomed democratic world has grown accustomed

to phony leadership, it gives you a jolt to encounter the real thing. He is a hero of our time, perhaps the hero.

was one of life's necessary white lies. those words. I consoled myself that this The Queen was in my mind's eye as I said prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty'. all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign and entirely [to] renounce and abjure naturalisation ceremony, absolutely wincing when required, during the relinquish our UK citizenship, I recall Although we Britons are not obliged to ago and in 2018 I became a US citizen. to the United States nearly two decades Archives at Windsor Castle. I moved despite many long hours in the Royal But that book was never completed, I ought to have been a fount of wisdom. family was known before 1917-Saxe-Coburg and Gotha – as the royal embarked on a history of the House of Pritish historians are supposed to know about their monarchy. Having once

mourning must have been uplifting, too. her death. To have been part of a nation in grandchildren grasped the significance of that tradition, so even his youngest the Queen' was played. I have maintained and stood to attention when 'God Save and watch the Queen's Christmas message establishment. Yet he always made us sit Orwell's views of the British Empire and in Burma and India left him with roughly throne. His wartime service in the RAF was a Labour man when she ascended the history. My grandfather Thomas Hamilton recollection of her role in my family's the Lone Piper's pibroch, so much as the days, magnificent though it was, nor even It was not the pageantry of the past ten switch. The Queen's death found me out. aftempted autogolpe on 6 January - I being embarrassing - as during Trump's American. When the United States is premiership of Boris Johnson - I am an in Britain - such as the opera buffa a hedge. When farcical things occur et dual citizenship is more disreputable than a white lie. It is

Niall Ferguson is the Milbank Family Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and a Bloomberg Opinion columnist.

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way to Kyiv. My mind focused on the war in Ukraine, I found myself on the war in Ukraine, I found myself uncharacteristically lost for words when I was asked to comment. I took refuge in the complexities of the journey, which involved a delayed flight from Rome to Dublin, a frantic drive to Chelm on the Polish-Ukrainian border, and then an overnight train through western Ukraine. It was a good excuse. The reality was I could think of nothing to say. I couldn't could think of nothing to say. I couldn't have done an interview even if I'd been trapped in Broadcasting House.

orcs'. You soon see why. routinely refer to the invaders as 'the death squads. Ukrainian soldiers executed in cold blood by Russian 60 people here, many of them civilians that they interred the bodies of more than in Bucha. It was only six months ago Andrew and Pyervozvannoho All Saints crimes buried next to the Church of St memorial to the victims of Russian war armour. I am haunted by the simple destroyed houses, and burnt-out Russian Hostomel, do you see the blown bridges, east, to the suburbs of Irpin, Bucha and cheerful. Only when you drive north-Kharkiv. Central Kyiv looks positively stound Kherson, and to the east, beyond and now the fighting is to the south, and won in the first phase of the war to be. The Battle of Kyiv was fought you might expect a capital city at war forewarned me, more exuberant than correspondent Richard Engel had yiv was, as NBC's roving war

Over lunch, he confided that he had wrote, 'he radiates ingenuous bonhomie.' I liked him. 'Diminutive but energetic,' I his improbable election in April 2019. met Zelensky before, five months after just for Ukraine but for all of Europe. I'd of discontent' was fast approaching, not Zelensky's sombre message that a 'winter that mood and prepared us for President compartments. Bucha jolted us out of eastwards in blacked-out sleeping a certain giddiness as we trundled Zakaria, Eric Schmidt - and there was Applebaum, Radek Sikorski, Fareed group included old friends - Anne about the train ride to Kyiv. Our here had been something thrilling

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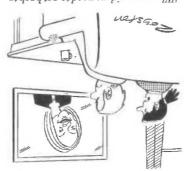
There will be another so-called 'fiscal event' in the coming months, so this week may not mark the end of the government's radicalism. But it does show that Truss and Kwarteng want their economic dividing line with Labour to be tax cuts – rather than the with Labour to be tax cuts – rather than the deficit, as it was for Cameron and Osborne. Labour will counter with the question: tax cuts for whom? This week has started the debate on which the next election may turn.

through the necessary changes. par no one has enough political capital to see and 1970s; it is holding the economy back, equivalent of industrial relations in the 1960s planning is becoming the early 21st-century across England, Indeed, there is a sense that won't have the same effect as a liberalisation - commendable. But a precemeal approach the difficulties of doing anything in this area level. This is better than nothing and - given an attempt to do planning reform on a local the government is proposing appear to be in June last year. The investment zones that by-election defeat in Chesham and Amersham es amid a backbench backlash following the son abandoned meaningful planning changon the economy would be in planning. Johnreform that would make the biggest impact the growth rate of the whole economy. The ers' bonuses is, ultimately, not going to affect prepared to go? Removing the cap on bank-The third question is how big is Truss

verts is correct. Truss's theory about the Tories' 2019 concoming days will be an early test of whether So the reaction to Friday's statement in the sion to remove the bankers' bonuses cap. to bring in a new windfall tax and her decifor her tax cuts for 'big business', her refusal will attack Truss in classic left-right terms distinctively Conservative policies. Labour flipped to the Tories in 2019 actually want long been convinced that those voters who tone is very different to Johnson's. Truss has likely to cost more than furlough). But her afraid to spend big (the energy package is holds and businesses suggests that she is not Truss's energy package for both house-

cy. Her emphasis is on competitiveness: the rumour that she will change the name of the Department for Crowth is revealing.

When we said we need to get back to normal, I forgot Liz Truss was PM.'



The second question is how electorally viable Truss's approach is. The 2019 Tory victory was based on leaning right on culture and, in Tory terms, left on economics. Truss wants a very different economic poli-

changes that require legislation are going to take longer just to get through parliament thanks to the packed legislative timetable and the fact that the government has no majority in the Lords. At the same time, the fact that Truss and Kwarteng have taken over with two years to the next election could limit the impact of reforms, as businesses and with two years to the next election could limit the impact of reforms, as businesses and investors aren't sure that the measures and investors aren't sure that the measures will be retained after the next election.

Having entered office in midterm and after 12 years of Tory rule, Truss and Kwarteng need to deliver quickly

Perhaps the biggest challenge for Truss and Kwarteng is time: having entered office in midterm, and after 12 years of Tory-led governments, they need to deliver quickly. This will be difficult as supply-side changes can take years to have an effect. Indeed,

Her supporting economists are confident that the markets will give the government time and space to make this transition. But this could become complicated if the Bank of England continues with quantitative tightening, Another question is what happens to sterling, which, like many other currencies, has fallen significantly in value against the dollar recently. But if the pound continues to dollar recently.

growth rate then it can avoid the fiscal choices of the past few years. Truss's argument is that 'tax cuts and reform' will deliver the growth that has been so elusive since 2008.

cle is by boosting growth. It is certainly true that if the government can increase the UK's

reasons why taxes were rising is because of the Tories' big spending. The National Insurance rise is meant to pay for both the extra funding to deal with the NHS backlog and the cost of the government's social care policy. Truss has indicated that she will honour those commitments while scrapping the rise. The way Truss intends to square this circles of the properties o

energy for both businesses and households, is a reminder that she knows there are some ideological fights which aren't worth the candle. The cost of the energy package is unknowable, but there are those in Truss's team who believe it may cost much less than feared because the wholesale gas price may well continue to fall.

It is worth remembering that one of the It is worth remembering that one of the

At the same time, the energy bills package is meant to give the government space to get on with a tax-cutting agenda. Truss's decision to intervene to this extent, with the government directly setting the price of energy for both businesses and households, is a reminder that she knows there are some ideological fights which aren't worth the ideological fights which aren't worth the

Even some ministers are nervous about how the electorate will receive this week's package. Truss and Kwarteng's calculation, however, is that the Tories must reassert their low-tax, pro-growth credentials.

the public would react. from EU membership - often for fear of how tively few changes to the rules that it inherited tions, the Johnson administration made rela-Despite prizing sovereignty in the negotiament's attitude to its new post-Brexit powers. sion also reveals something about the governwill boost competitiveness. Kwarteng's decito take some criticism for measures it thinks does show that the government is prepared never going to go down well with voters, but the cap on bankers, bonuses - a policy that is cuts. At the same time, Kwarteng is scrapping ments about the distributional impact of tax economy moving. She is dismissive of argube unpopular if that is what it takes to get the Truss is happy to declare she is prepared to Boris Johnson's attempts at people-pleasing, that growth is their priority. In contrast to More broadly, they want to emphasise

iz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng are determined to show that Britain's conomy is under new management.

They want to indicate through their decisions – such as cancelling the corporation tax rise and reversing the National Insurance rise – that they are breaking away from the fiscal approach of recent years.

Truss's first big test

THE SPECTATOR'S NOTES

Charles Moore

funeral, only one, David Cameron, would identify as a country mouse. The good news, however, is that the new King is equally a champion of rural life. Indeed, he supports it, from Truro to Transylvania, with an ardour which was foreign to his mother's character. We foreign to his mother's character.

encounter with death and succession. the new King remembered this first standing beside his mother's bearer party, a low bow'. I wonder if, 70 years later, the inspecting officer withdrew with belts, and presented their rifles. Satisfied, they put on their bearskins, greatcoats and stood before the tiny boy. At his request, see them. The 'huge men' gathered and deerstalker, went, under Penn's care, to a 'ruby-coloured velveteen' outfit and a estate to rehearse. The Prince, wearing were staying at York House on the The bearer party of Guards for the coffin hearing the news of her father's demise. had hurried back from Kenya, after Sandringham with his parents once they future Charles III, aged three, was at death of George VI in 1952. The L Penn's manuscript account of the have been studying Sir Arthur

almost three-quarters of a century. be a good rule to re-apply now, after solely because it was new'. This would be.' He made it a rule 'to criticise nothing bursting with new ideas, as they should Queen and even more, Prince Philip, are strangely moved. Penn added that 'The since she could only lisp with it. I felt clear voice which I have known so well "Thank you, Arthur", she said, in that saying, 'God bless Your Majesty always.' her hand and kissed it for the first time', reached Sandringham, Penn 'bowed over When Elizabeth II and Prince Philip Queen's mother, Queen Elizabeth. enn was private secretary to the new

Asking through Green Park earlier in the week, weaving my way through the bunches of flowers, I magined myself as a visitor who had heard no news. Why, I might have asked myself, is everyone so upset about the myself, is everyone so upset about the



Westminster Hall well after night had fallen, and viewed the coffin. Behold, he tells me, the wonderful experience of grace cast out his fear. He is left with its rational aspects, but finds that what he calls 'the sense of irrational jeopardy' has gone. He quotes the irrational jeopardy', has gone. He quotes the lime from the hymn, 'The prisoner leaps to loose his chains'.

stories, if at an unusually rarefied level. classic pattern of so many immigration for his elder daughter. His follows the exbressed in this last service he performed use the title, but his gratitude to the King is keep his princely title. Gen. Chika does not grandfather during the war, allowing him to because George VI gave shelter to his Marthe Bibesco. He is a British citizen great-grandson of the legendary Princess Division. He is a Romanian prince and the Major-General commanding the Household its military aspects, Christopher Chika, was the man who so beautifully organised example of this in the Queen's funeral should surely go wider. The most important plack or brown skin, but the definition a predominantly white society who have is often a code word for people in When the word 'diversity' is used, it

uch has been said about the late less about the more general fact that she was a countrywoman. Almost everyone is either a town mouse or a country one, and she was the latter. This was always a source of comfort to rural people all over the nation, particularly in an age when hardly any powerful people have a close connection with the land. Of the six British connection with the land. Of the six British prime ministers who attended the Queen's

the sort of person who wants to be a saint have been Elizabeth herself. But then, approved of such a proceeding would person in all the world least likely to have possible moment to start. Admittedly, the If it were minded to do so, this is its best exception - King Charles the Martyr). (with one important and controversial but has never tried to add to their number accepts pre-Reformation canonisations has an odd position on sainthood. It of which she was Supreme Governor, come forward. The Church of England, plenty of posthumous examples will them of this or that. As her cult grows, people who believe the late Queen cured time, but the world is already full of to the person concerned. This can take two miracles effected by intercession heroic virtue?. The second is to prove for sainthood, what the Church calls first of the two formal qualifications She clearly did, however, possess the would never have become our Queen. country, and if we were, Elizabeth II Compostela? Well, we are not a Catholic about St Elizabeth, with Windsor as her made a saint with unusual speed. What subito!' And the Polish Pope was indeed in St Peter's Square shouted 'Santo When Pope John Paul II died, the crowds A would go the cry for canonisation. I this were a Catholic country, up

hours, never sitting down. He reached among the crowds of thousands, for 15 from rural Herefordshire, and queued the lying-in-state. He travelled up however, that he really should witness for more than 29 months. He decided, contact, except with immediate family, Tom had had almost no direct human or was incapacitated. Until this week, which would burden his wife if he died was engaged in major commitments because he is diabetic and because he was worsened by Covid, particularly an active, fruitful life; but his worry successfully, in managing this, and leads illnesses. He worked hard, usually exceptional anxiety about catching Tom Oliver, has long suffered from death, made a difference. My cousin, Lexample where the Queen, after slieady know personally of one

is the sort who must not be made one.

he cornered rat

Will Putin push the button to save himself?

PAUL WOOD



Ukrainian army. by the villagers and handed to the tried to leave on foot but were caught two tanks ground to a halt. The soldiers

lage. Putin made the biggest mistake in service], was just one big Potemkin vilincluding the FSB [the main intelligence including the Russian armed forces, Ukraine. 'It looks like the whole regime, Shvets talks of a Russian 'collapse' in

starting this damn war because it ruined

the village. People are amazed to see that

escape. He has killed his country. put himself in a corner from which he has no army keeps this vast land together... Putin on foot, could be the end of Russia. The defeat in Ukraine, the army trudging home ferent. It is a disaster.' Shvets believes that It was virtual reality. And the reality is difwhat they believed was Russia was all fake.

past. If there was an uprising now, the army peoples have declared independence in the Dagestanis, Mongols, Tartars. Many of these Circassians, Chechens, Ingush, Ossetians, some 190 separate ethnic groups. There are guage. The Russian Federation is said to have they don't even speak Russian as a first lanworld war, and in large parts of the empire price peen but of Russia only since the second far-flung empire to remain loyal. Many places There is no economic reason for much of this timber, diamonds - Moscow takes it all. not the other way around. Oil, gas, wheat, empire. The provinces subsidise the capital, the old Soviet Union, Russia is a colonial This is because, as Shvets says, just like

borders, and for liberal democracy in Russia for a Russia that respected its neighbours' Russia's subjugation of its empire. Hopes West had been 'unwittingly complicit' in with Russia. For too long, Cecire says, the which to some extent still govern relations the treaties for détente with the Soviet Union, was set up by the US government to monitor an 'unadulterated good'. The Commission believes the end of Russia's empire would be the Helsinki Commission in Washington DC, Michael Cecire, a senior policy adviser at would be in no shape to stop it.

The US and other western countries itself, all depended on 'decolonisation',

> in water. He had to buy his own winter unistale bread and 'soup' that was raw potatoes his diary that there was not enough food: just roamed through the buildings. He wrote in often no power or water. A pack of wild dogs

> Filatyev was sent into battle without a flak the real number was more like 100,000. 200,000 troops invaded Ukraine, he believes was really just 300. While, officially, some On paper, his unit had 500 soldiers, but it and Jammed after a few shots. boots in the wrong size. His rifle was rusty form after being given summer clothes and

> was just one big Potemkin village' including the Russian armed forces, It looks like the whole regime, carrying mortar bombs but had no brakes.

> He was driven to the front in a truck that was

jacket - no doubt it had been stolen and sold.

properly, but in their reports everything was ment] is 100 years old, a lot is not working the true state of their units. 'All this [equipers continually lied to the top brass to hide He calls the army a 'mafia' and says offic-

probably fine... the Russian army is a mad-

ting where they had parked shelled those fuel, the returning soldiers - perhaps forgeton the stalled tanks. Having failed to find Meanwhile, villagers put Ukrainian flags two and they went to look for a gas station. of fuel, so the crews hopped on to the other arriving in a Ukrainian village. Iwo ran out tells me one story about four Russian tanks to Yuri Shvets, a former KGB officer. He Filatyev's account comes as no surprise house and everything is for show.

ranks, destroying them. Then the remaining

L by the Ukrainian intelligence I was given a recording made t the start of the war in Ukraine,

ton. Maybe the commander-in-chief Putin's I finger is hovering over the butumibal V sith ... ob bluode I tanw man speaks in Russian: 'I don't know ative in Kyiv. The line crackles and a nuclear missile base in Siberia to a relcepted call from an officer at Russia's services. It was described as an inter-

other Ukrainian cities. With a tremor in his enter the co-ordinates to target Kyiv and two been told of orders from President Putin to ness'. And a terrifying further step - he has put its nuclear weapons into a state of readisays his base has been given three hours to knows he's got no way out. The Russian

At the time, a retired Ukrainian general voice, he says: 'He might just do it.'

Putin really is willing to nuke Ukraine. sipility: that the recording was genuine and Ukrainian allies. But there's the third posis also possible the tape was faked by our Ukrainians would be listening. Of course, it missile officer to make the call, knowing the ly that, he said: perhaps they had ordered a might have been trying to achieve exactfor fear of causing panic. The Russians told me the recording had not been released

pic sprinters'. This was a rout, not a retreat. Ukrainian commander, they 'fled like Olymcles and ran. In the memorable words of one abandoned their expensive armoured vehinear the city of Kharkiv, Russian soldiers face of a surprise Ukrainian counteroffensive reversal on the battlefield in Ukraine. In the since the Kremlin's latest, and most dramatic, He has become increasingly unpredictable m an almost desperate speech to the nation. Putin appeared to threaten Nato with them nuclear weapons because on Wednesday We are once more talking about Russian

found there were no beds in his barracks, and 56th Guards Air Assault Regiment - Filatyev script). Despite joining an 'elite' unit - the Russian professional soldier (not a con-Russia's Facebook, by Pavel Filatyev, a able memoir published on VKontakte, invasion of Ukraine is explained in a remark-What has happened to the Kremlin's

'This war is a catastrophe'

Meet Russia's new opposition

LISA HASELDINE

solidarity because of the intimidation they're facing,' said Ksenia Thorstrom, another St Petersburg councillor who signed the petition. 'We want to show we're not scared. But of course we are.' Olga Fattush, 57, a councillor for the Gavan municipal district in St fattisty there. 'How could I not sign this petersburg, was born in Ukraine and has letter? The culprit for everything we are letter? The culprit for everything we are soing through is Putin; he is the one who has done this. He has destroyed family ties. I am not the only one with this pain. There are thousands like me.'

There are thousands like me.'

the clock back on Russia's progress. A new iron curtain seems to be descending.

'You can split life into before and after that,' says Timofei Nikolaev, another petitioner from Moscow, his voice petitioner from Moscow, his voice Censorship has returned, as has the Censorship has returned, as has the re-emergence of thought crime.

councillor, says: 'Everyone is waiting for this to end somehow. But there must be change of some sort... Many of my friends have left the country for political or practical reasons. They don't see a future. Russia is full of talented, worthy people. We need to somehow improve our situation and rejoin the civilised world. Life in isolation is impossible.'

don't want a repeat of that.' the most ruthless and seized power. We were a tiny marginal party, but they were have victory. In 1917 the Bolsheviks be very pro-war, and not stop until we Someone could come to power who will support Putin because of his direction. Russia' that includes Ukraine] but don't the idea of a Russky Mir [a 'Greater Russia,' he says.' Some people do support will also be a very difficult moment for follows Putin could be worse. This either. He acknowledges that what don't want to post things on social media to know what other people think. People the Soviet Union. That's why it's difficult things and remember the repressions of everywhere. People are scared to discuss says Baltrukov. Self-censorship exists even to each other is to take a risk,

ot every critic of Vladimir Putin ends up in jail. It still suits Russia's President to present his country as a democracy. Elections are occasionally held against opponents whom Putin tolerated if they don't pose a serious threat. Last week, 70 local councillors from across Russia used this remaining from across Russia used this ferting for his resignation.

from councillors in St Petersburg
which called for Putin to be indicted on
charges of treason and removed from
office. A petition followed. I spoke to a
surprisingly willing to discuss their
reasoning with me. They don't expect
to overpower Putin and they offer
an interesting picture of opposition
for Putin's war. 'Yes we are being
to Putin's war. 'Yes we are being
but under pressure,' says Dmitry
Baltrukov, a member of St Petersburg's
Smolninskoye council. 'But staying
silent isn't an option.'

The council then voted to send the letter to the State Duma in Moscow. It was a huge risk, but the natural next step of protest. Some members of the council have already been summoned by local police, accused of 'actions aimed at discrediting the Russian government'. Clearly there are limits to how much opposition Putin is prepared to tolerate. But as casualties in Ukraine mount,

But as casualties in Ukraine mount, that opposition is growing. 'A bunch of young, capable people will die in this war or become disabled,' says Dmitry Palyuga, 35. 'This war is a catastrophe crippling the country's economy, the war will devastate Russian society. 'Those who return will somehow have to continue their lives here in peacetime 'Those who return will somehow have brown us we will once again have a 'lost shown us we will once again have a 'lost speneration' who will be really difficult to integrate back into civilian society.'

paid the price for a higher profile. They were each fined £700 for discrediting the authorities — but risked being jailed for up to 15 years. We want to show

could be little more than spectators in this process, he said. But we should not frighten ourselves by imagining the 'surefire horrors' of ethnic conflict in a disintegrating Russian Federation: 'The Balkan wars but with nuclear weapons.' He did not want to downplay the dangers if Russia split apart, he said, but an 'apocalyptic nightmare' was not preordained. Instead, just as the Soviet not preordained. Instead, illust as the Soviet relatively orderly and even cordial divorce', relatively orderly and even cordial divorce'. Putin might not see it this way. Would he Putin might not see it this way. Would he

order a nuclear strike on Ukraine to prevent defeat there, and, ultimately, Russia tearing itself apart? He is certainly doubling down in Ukraine. His speech this week promised a partial mobilisation, throwing another ing war. The Kremlin has arranged for the so-called 'People's Republics' it controls in become part of Russia proper. So an attack to become part of Russia proper. So an attack on them would be an attack of them would be an attack on them would be an attack on them would be an attack of them would be an attack on them would be an attack of them would be an attack on the Mothere of the would be an attack on the Mothere of the would be an attack on the Mothere of the would be an attack on the Mothere of the would be an attack on the Mothere of the would be an attack on the Mothere of the would be an attack on the Mothere of the would be an attack of the would be a would be an attack of the would be an attack of the would be a would

He accused Nato of trying to 'blackmail' Russia with nuclear weapons. But Russia also had the 'means of destruction... If the territorial integrity of our country is threat-

Putin put himself in a corner from which he has no escape. He has killed his country'

ened, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal to protect Russia and our people. This is not a bluff.' Earlier, Andrey Gurulyov, a thuggish member of the Duma, who was once a senior general, had said that Russia could turn Britain 'into a Martian desert in three minutes flat'.

desert in three minutes flat'.

For the time being, Nato governments are worrying more about Russian tactical nuclear weapons — the smaller bombs that might be used to destroy a village or a regiment — and less about missiles fired from regiment — and less about missiles fired from Siberia to London. US officials say there is no evidence, yet, of such amall nuclear weapons being moved into Ukraine. But that could change. Then it might be a question of whether Putin thinks destiny has chosen of whether Putin thinks destiny has chosen ing Kremlin observer tells me Putin is a man 'driven by a dark sense of mission', his man 'driven by a dark sense of mission', his

In interviews, Putin likes to tell a story from his childhood when he chased a rat into a corner on the landing of his apartment block in Leningrad. The rat turned on the young Putin, teeth bared. 'There, on that stair landing, I got a quick and lasting lesson in the meaning of the word "cornered".' The lesson for Nato and Ukraine is clear: a cornered rat is unpredictable – and dangerous.

ing - building his Potemkin village - and

says Putin has made a career out of bluff-

hands already bathed in blood. But Shvets

is bluffing now.

Truss's gamble

The Energy Price Guarantee may cost much less than is feared

JULIAN JESSOP

almost half the August peak. wholesale gas plunged to 320p per therm gazing. Earlier this week, the actual price of look so bleak. This isn't just crystal-ballfeared in August. Suddenly, things don't expected to be significantly lower than was 550p. Throughout next year, gas prices are

now at comfortable levels, with Germany at pressures have now eased. Gas stocks are Nord Stream I pipeline to Germany. These widespread shortages as Russia closed the the winter, compounded by speculation of countries were building up stocks ahead of last month. At the time, western European sponją sak why people panicked so much Why such a sharp fall? Perhaps we

unviable. Hakle, one of Germany's oldest prices surge, the business risks becoming is surprisingly energy-intensive, and when ing entirely. Turning wood into toilet paper production - or even, unfortunately, closminium, ceramics, even loo roll, are cutting energy-intensive businesses such as alunew ways to save energy. In some cases, households and businesses all look for ening, as economies slow and governments, months. Underlying demand is also weakto remain adequate even during the colder Europe's gas supplies are now expected an impressive 90 per cent.

originally suggested. be less than half of the £150 billion that was the final bill for the UK energy bailout could lower than has been feared. This suggests to speculate that gas prices may end up far ful thinking. But in any case, it is reasonable tion to that crisis - though that may be wish-Ukraine have raised hopes of an early resoluoverall prices. Russia's military failures in gas (LNG) have been strong, helping to ease Meanwhile, imports of liquefied natural loo roll suppliers, went bust last week.

Trussonomics' 1, conventional thinking 0. bill should be much smaller than anticipated. lapse in the wholesale price of gas, the final nomic and social crisis - but thanks to a colresponse that reflects the scale of the ecoprove to be a masterstroke. It is a pragmatic ibility, the Energy Price Guarantee could Rather than damaging economic cred-

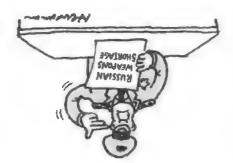
> value of the pound. cost of borrowing - and to the fall in the uted to a sharp rise in the UK government's to the energy companies has already contrib-

> risk to the broader shoulders of the governwhole point of the plan is to transfer a huge not so much a bug as a design feature. The gy Price Guarantee is uncertain but this is welfare benefits. Yes, the cost of the Enertax revenues and lower spending on other recession. This should, in turn, mean higher more likely that the economy will avoid deep sidies will keep inflation down - making it ings elsewhere. For example, the fuel subitself will be at least partly offset by savfirst is that the upfront costs of the freeze grabbing cost estimates are misleading. The But there are two reasons the headline-

even during the colder months expected to remain adequate Europe's gas supplies are now

of a deep recession are now much greater. countries, notably Germany, where the risks decisive than that of many other European government's response has been much more for UK assets - including sterling. The new time, this should also be seen as a positive holds and businesses to take the full hit. Over ment, rather than expect individual house-

priced at 824p per therm but now it's around wholesale gas for delivery in lanuary was down quite a lot. Back then, for example, next year. Those estimates have since come August on what will happen to gas prices their forecasts based on estimates from Mr Johnson's colleagues at the IFS made might not cost nearly as much as people fear. been falling recently, and the whole cap The second point is that gas prices have



of Economic Affairs. economist and Fellow at the Institute juapuadapui up si dossas upijns

looks like it will be a lot smaller and sceptics even the bank bailouts. Fortunately, the bill More than the furlough scheme, more than most expensive economic policy in history. lion or more over two years, making it the Guarantee' could cost the taxpayer £150 bilestimates suggested that the 'Energy Price its economic credibility at risk. Indeed, early that the new energy price plan puts are many - have been quick to claim rities of 'Trussonomies' and there

to businesses and other energy users (such as tional costs. Similar support has been offered ment compensating suppliers for any addiyears, starting next month, with the governunit price of energy for households for two The Prime Minister proposes to cap the are set to be proved wrong.

Let's be clear; it's a massive state interschools) for an initial period of six months.

up with a better-targeted, more efficient and Any half-decent economist could have come sioner in Blackpool trying to survive winter. from the capped cost just as much as the penpool in his London mansion will benefit of need. An oligarch heating the swimming the energy bills of every consumer regardless vention in the markets which will subsidise

be far more effective than a patchwork of least simple. Easy to communicate. It should Nonetheless, the chosen 'Plan B' is at otentially cheaper 'Plan A'.

scheme was) if energy prices remain high. ually revised and extended (as the furlough businesses. It will also not have to be continof uncertainty hanging over households and smaller measures in lifting the huge cloud

giving strong incentives to save energy. be twice as expensive as it was a year ago the new rate kicks in, household energy will will still be there. As of next month, when percentage of their budgets. Market signals households should see the biggest gains as a rural areas, or the north. Lower-income use the most energy – so people in colder the biggest benefit will go to households that tributional impact either. Oligarchs aside, In fact, it's not so bad in terms of its dis-

lion'. Concerns about writing a blank cheque lifetime, because this could cost £150 bilbiggest single fiscal announcement in my Fiscal Studies, has said this could be 'the Paul Johnson, the head of the Institute for But what about the cost to the taxpayer?

Labour has a problem - but it's not Keir Starmer



royals firmly in their sights. express train to the Finland Station, with the tumists who still believe they are on the

plenty of delegates to boo when the National get your tickets now!) and you can expect featuring Polly Toynbee (yes, hurry, hurry, conference on the future of the monarchy, inate. There is a fringe debate at Labour's past ten years that they have come to domitself the 'intelligentsia' - but it is only in the porn far-left element, which used to consider It is true that the party always had its highotic and has always adored the royal family. class, a working class which is deeply patricould claim to be the voice of the working Long gone are the days when Labour

Meanwhile, the left-wing MP Clive Anthem is played.

followed by a touch of despair. the Queen lying-in-state with 'bemusement viewed the queues of people waiting to see to duty and service were 'a lie' and that he that intimations about the Queen's devotion Lewis has delivered himself of the opinion

estranged on the issue of patriotism and a politics, for a start. But most importantly, on this issue as on many others - identity famous Red Wall constituencies. Estranged of 30 and even more so those living in those in the country, especially those over the age utterly estranged from the majority of people similarly to Mr Lewis. They find themselves that the vast majority of Labour activists feel for the Conservative party resides. I suspect It is in that very admission that the hope

It was this, as much as Brexit or Boris try and its institutions. concomitant respect for the history of coun-

voting Labour. country as the main reason they wouldn't be Jeremy Corbyn's apparent hatred for his own spoke to in the lead-up to the election cited election for the Tories. Voter after voter I Johnson's chutzpah, which won the 2019

their hundred or so thousand. the gobby deluded children are still there, in congregation of gobby deluded children. But the Labour party is no longer a self-loathing done what he can to persuade voters that Keir Starmer understands this and has

The argument continues online. SPECTATOR.CO.UK/RODLIDDLE

> hemp-based blankets for disabled unicorns. unless it is a firm which manufactures organic

> well here, but I think Sir Keir Starmer has know that I am not reading the room terribly ment's performance, it really should be. I the bag, I think - even if, given the governa little succour. The thing is not yet quite in tortutious outcome, let me provide you with those of you who suspect this may not be a in which Labour is the largest party, and for than not that we will soon have a government preferable. It is still, to my mind, more likely trains and buses don't run. I suppose this is emissions by organising strikes so that the striving to greatly lower the country's carbon dosh largely from organisations which are The Labour party, meanwhile, gets its

the current government, it should be bag for Labour yet – even if, given The next election is not quite in the

as decent, honest and boring - three qualiing his rabble and comes across to the public in general made a very decent fist of lead-

nothing in common with either Labour's ent, white middle-class people who have perpetually outraged, comparatively afflusurface it is still the convocation of young, Labour party to deal with, and beneath the His problem, however, is that he has the voters right now. ties which probably commend themselves to

an immediate uproar among the Momenwith a rendition of 'God Save the King'. Cue party would kick off its annual conference when Starmer announced that the Labour The obvious example of this came last week the vast majority of people in our country. voter base, such as it was, or indeed with



ration of which these people would approve, companies. It is hard to think of any corpostop the Tories getting money from airline just as it is with the eco lobby who want to cent, performative, virtue-signalling cant,

sions, much as we do for our own history, deeply apologise for all of these transgresplus it's a picture of an old white man. We precious resources and killing polar bears, of art was made by raping the Earth of its underneath each portrait saying: 'This work putting up more of those stupid little signs their collection all oil paintings, or perhaps ther, I presume they are expunging from nuclear reactors in their back gardens. Furvate windfarms or heat pumps or modular I assume they do not all have their own pridecision wish to stay warm this winter, and with BP. I assume the people who made this recently decided to end its sponsorship deal

Similarly, the National Portrait Gallery

tuels except, presumably, for the purpose of

wish we had no further exploitation of tossil

ly polyethylene terephthalate). Again, they

on a petroleum product, polyester (usualthen, that many movies made are printed

of fossil fuels. It is a shame for the BFI, they do not approve of the exploitation

with Shell a couple of years ago because

both ended their sponsorship arrangements

Bank Centre and the British Film Institute

petroleum and gas companies. The South

to stop their sponsorship agreements with

various institutions which have decided

flight from reality. It is all a little like the

is another marvellous example of the left's

still to avail themselves of its services: this

want the aviation industry not to exist but The protestors, then, simultaneously

where they get to gurn at an orangutan and

day at some eco lodge in Indonesia, perhaps,

need to use one to get somewhere. A holi-

are not in favour of aeroplanes until they

acroplanes. Or, at least, these campaigners

industry, because they are not in favour of

received donations from the aviation

angry that the Conservative party has

see that Green campaigning groups are

chide the locals about logging.

making movies.

The truth is that this is petulant, adolesthis planet.' lives of privilege and general existence on

The bulldog of Brazil

What tricks will Bolsonaro play to win a second term?

OLIVER BASCIANO

'Only God will oust me.' tion of the armed forces.' He says repeatedly: time to solve the problem, with the participathe electronic ballot system: 'We still have in July, he repeated his claims concerning nal.' Calling a meeting of foreign diplomats sponsored by the Superior Electoral Tribucan't participate in a farce like the one being Bolsonaro said of the forthcoming fight: 'I across the country's major cities last year, cases of fraud. At one of a series of rallies new millennium, with almost no recorded completely paperless elections since the largest democracy in the world, has had that goes against him. Brazil, the fourthtem, suggesting he will not recognise a vote rity of the country's electronic voting syshas long been casting doubt over the integ-Drama enough? Not for Brazil. Bolsonaro ner, will win in the second-round run-off.

defence minister, a recently retired general, less vote-counting machines. Bolsonaro's for further tests on the integrity of the wireties acquiesced to a request from the military Earlier this month, the election authori-

country's electronic voting system and to esting sini shi revo iduob Bolsonaro has long been casting

round on 2 October. ensure the right result come the first voting bromised the army will 'go until the end' to

military regime. stitution retains many elements of the former ence as a dictatorship than not, and its conhas spent more of its 200 years of independtary coup in Brazil is real. This country DC in January 2021. The threat of a milithe cosplay at the Capitol in Washington People spoke of a coup in America after

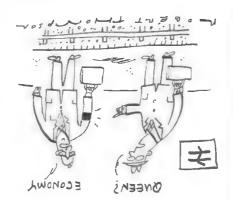
up their minds as to which candidate they're have told pollsters they have already made Bolsonaro. Eighty per cent of the electorate tor Lula; railies and motorcycle parades for core bases: rallies and visits to samba schools pecause porp candidates are playing to their campaigns have a strange feel to them, appetite for autocracy. The public-facing while, is said to have been sounding out an up support for democracy. Bolsonaro, meanhave been spent behind the scenes shoring seriously. Much of Lula's energy seems to The left is taking the prospect extremely

São Paulo, Brazil

point margin. Workers party candidate by a ten percentage to, a relative unknown, beat the replacement campaign on corruption charges. Bolsonapresident, was Jailed midway through the Inácio Lula da Silva, the country's former elected in 2018 when his initial rival, Luiz and he may well be right. Bolsonaro was Jair Bolsonaro, the 'Trump of the Tropics', ing call for an election campaign, but this is says await him, It is an unusual rallyalternatives Brazil's incumbent leader ♣ T ail, death or victory.' These are the three

Now, however, with spiralling inflation bresented with an anti-communist crusader. mer military captain; the business world was fans were introduced to the gun-loving forman; gym bros and sertanejo country music gelical churchgoers got the faithful family images to discrete sectors of society. Evanhere enabled Bolsonaro to project different WhatsApp groups that are part of daily life book and, most importantly, the gargantuan via social media. The use of YouTube, Facetion and conduct his campaign predominantly His formula was to focus on anti-corrup-

leftist, with his right-of-centre running partcharges quashed. All polls are predicting the released from prison in 2019, corruption rival Lula is back in the running having been nal charges against him. Moreover, his old no anti-vax movement, recommended crimiure to buy vaccines, in a country with almost daily hunger. A senate inquiry into his failsonaristas. Thirty-three million people face sage to cut through to all but hardened Bolis finding it harder for his anti-politics messome 685,000 Brazilians died - the President and a disastrous handling of the pandemic --



BAROMETER

цье патезакея

- Charles III, Duke of Savoy (1504-53): made peace with France. - Charles III, King of Navarre (1387-1425): assumed through marriage. Was assassinated. moved to Hungary, whose throne he had forced Pope Urban VI into exile, then - Charles III, King of Naples (1382-86): Some of history's other Charles IIIs:

of his life in exile. Remained king in name but spent the rest lost when France invaded Savoy in 1536.

by partitioning the kingdom, Fled to Italy tried to regain independence from France - Charles III, Duke of Bourbon (1505-21):

- Charles III, King of Spain (1759-88): when the plot was discovered.

- Charles III, Duke of Parma (1849-54): claimed it for Spain. invaded the Kingdom of Naples and

assassinated. placed Parma under martial law. Was

Death by numbers

- Victor Hugo (1885): 2 million - Duke of Wellington (1852): 1.5 million physically attended service or procession: funeral? Some estimates for numbers who Who has had the most highly attended state

- John Paul II (2005): 4 million - Ayrton Senna (1994): 3 million

Nadu in southern India (1969): 15 million C.N. Annadurai, chief minister of Tamil - Ayatollah Khomeini (1989): 10 million

In hock

%9'66 Π K Belgium %6'ZOL 112,1% Canada France, %p'tll Spain %ZZII 132.6% SN Italy %9'ZGL Greece. %£'681 %L'692 neder debt than Britain's (% of GDP): Some countries that have a larger national

Power points

38 Bermuda Germany. cents ber kWh) 2U) sand lowest retail electricity prices? (US Which countries currently have the highest

	гописв: вјвејигскајв сош
2	Bhutan, Angola, Suriname
I	Libya, Zimbabwe
	Ethiopia, Kyrgyztan, Cuba,
8.0	Sudan, Venezuela, Iran
	TOMEST
IE	Cayman Islands
35	Belgium
32	Portugal

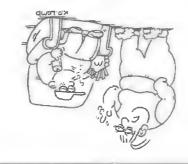
78

Denmark

tutionality" by forces who'd gladly usher in hand, and on the other, a defence of "instipetween naked [coup-mongering] on the one with an unenviable situation: confrontation analyst Alex Hochuli says: 'We're faced erful position. São Paulo-based political toral court, finding himself in a very powbeen appointed to head the country's elecjustice Alexandre de Moraes has recently of a judicial counter-coup. Supreme court Then there's the equally worrying risk

have been hammering that out behind closed the current process. In recent weeks they tions), or allow Lula's likely victory under given a supervisory role to last year's elecof a parallel count by the military (who were will either acquiesce to Bolsonaro's demands police. It is his electoral commission that ordered raids of their offices by federal nessmen were revealed this year, de Moraes after the messages of coup-ambivalent busispread by Bolsonaro-friendly bloggers, and against alleged instances of fake news being In 2020 de Moraes led an investigation already happened.' a judicial dictatorship... the coup has

ly to be forgotten. apparatus, a dangerous debt that is unliketion day will owe de Moraes, and the judicial and yellow presidential sash come inauguragoing un-minuted. Whoever takes the green doors with uniformed generals, the meetings



' nətzinim dilbəd inəmnnəvog a əd ot dn wors it not lufare ton or usy light

for emergency legislation postponing voting.

which will provide Bolsonaro with an excuse

the aim is a state of chaos, a climate of fear

rified of getting the call. Mainly, however,

Jury duty-style summons and people are ter-

various dictatorships around the world.' doing business with Brazil, As they do with lion times. And certainly no one will stop fer a coup than the return of [Lula]. A milwrote in a leaked WhatsApp group: 'I prebreneur probably spoke for many when he ing institutionality.' One mall-owning entretake place almost entirely within the staggerfew clashes in the streets, the dispute will As Oliveira says: 'With the exception of a with tanks rolling down Brasilia's avenues. Gabriel Garcia Márquez novel describes, This would not be the sort of coup a

> serious chance.) tenders, but they are the only ones with any Bolsonaro aren't the only presidential conpacking and won't be swayed. (Lula and

> the really dirty fighting perhaps a coup like the academic Perez Oliveira believe that in congress. But serious election/watchers and securing places for his political allies protein powder beloved of bodybuilders) reducing to zero import taxes on the whey election-period poverty-relief payments to second-round run-off (bribes range from Desonare is pouring government resources into getting himself through to the

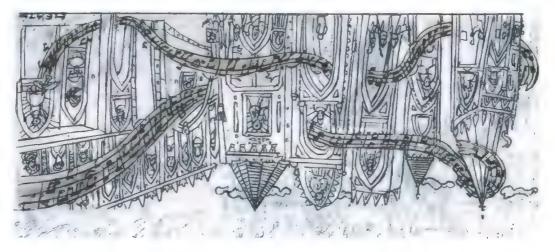
The violence serves in part to intimidate ers have been killed by Bolsonaro acolytes. begun. In recent months two Lula supportocation, is inevitable. In fact it has already Violence, even without such top-down provencourage supporters to take to the streets. the legitimacy of the election apparatus and sonaro will ramp up the agitating against weeks between the votes, he predicts, Bolread in terms of the coup's agenda.' In the ra. Therefore all his movements must be fairly. He does believe in polls,' says Oliveiro knows perfectly well that he will not win will come after the second round. Bolsona-

polling stations is partly fulfilled through working to an extent: in Brazil staffing of opposition voters and that tactic is already



COWLOSEK'S NOTEBOOK

James MacMillan



is a compatriot, but we're the Wrong Kind of Scots — or that's what they've told me, anyway, over the years. One patriot tweeted angrily that I 'have to move back to England' because I'm were amoyed at the title of my anthem 'Who Shall Separate Us?' implying that this contained some dastardly hidden this contained some dastardly hidden this contained some dastardly hidden that St Paul's Letter to the Romans that St Paul's Letter to the Romans that St Paul's Letter to the Romans on advice on Scottish was short on advice on Scottish constitutional reatrangements.

life with us these past 96 years. expressing joy at the gift of the Queen's to a serene Amen. It was my way of rippling up and down before settling ecstatic Alleluias, the eight vocal lines This anthem culminates in a series of it, and it can be done in so many ways. setting the word Alleluia. I never tire of the greatest joys in my composing life is handle all those different layers. One of be big enough and confident enough to seven and eight parts, so the choir must and professional alike. It divides into takes great skill for any choir, amateur it's unaccompanied, of course, and that get hold of it. Is it difficult to sing? Well, expediting its release so other choirs can publishers Boosey & Hawkes are conducted by James O'Donnell. My Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, and Westminster Abbey and His Majesty's that it would be sung by the choirs of Lfuneral anthem, knowing as I did t was a great honour to write this

Sir James MacMillan was composerconductor of the BBC Philharmonic from 2000 to 2009.

> Thatcher, but she didn't turn up. to me was set for the Rt Hon the Baroness and Prince Michael of Kent. The place next Penderecki, Dmitri Shostakovich's widow included the Polish composer Krzysztof guests stared open-jawed at me. They eventually got to my table where my fellow at me as I channelled my inner Mr Bean. I this distinguished line, the servants glaring thing I could do was to join on at the end of as the royal family walked in. The only should have been), all standing to attention assembled guests at their tables (where I two large doors opened and I could see the I was. Before anything else could happen who stared at me wondering who on earth with the royals and their puzzled staff, myself marooned in the reception hall out in the opposite direction and I found Then the orchestral players were ushered tables, a memo which I clearly missed. guests were being ushered towards their in musical conversation just as the dinner orchestra, I knew many of them and got lost with the royal family and members of the After this, the assembled guests mingled Orchestra, conducted by Seiji Ozawa. concert given by the London Symphony in 2002. Before dinner there was a short held, astonishingly, at Buckingham Palace cellist Matislav Rostropovich, which was 75th birthday party of the great Russian he first time I met the Queen was at the

> In the hours before the Queen's funeral, my grown-up children, via our WhatsApp group, were keeping me up to speed with views expressed on Twitter by some of the fraternity who, strangely, seemed less fraternity who, strangely, seemed less fraternity who, strangely, seemed less for new music at the funeral had gone for the wo Scottish composers. Judith Weir to two Scottish composers. Judith Weir

in the years since. on a text, both while I was setting it and example. I have rarely reflected so deeply the focus of significance in her life and messages and on other occasions was and pastoral insight in her Christmas ability to communicate it with devotion billions, around the world, and her an inspiration to millions, perhaps with Jesus. Her Christian faith was right to the heart of her relationship 8 was important to the Queen, as it gets I was told that this passage from Romans when the order of service was published. to keep quiet about it until Sunday night the anthem some time ago. I was asked planned years in advance, so I composed 8 September? Of course, these things are considering that Her Majesty only died on could I have written the music so fast of the questions I got on the day. How I wonder if Judith had to deal with some Separate Us From The Love of Christ?' of a passage from Romans 8, Who Shall the other was an anthem by me, a setting Weir, the Master of the King's Music, and some verses from Psalm 42 by Judith Monday. One was a beautiful setting of during the Queen's funeral on here were two world premieres

The Queen was a central presence throughout my whole life and in the lives of countless others for many years. Her quiet devotion to this country, this people, this Commonwealth, was the deciding factor for many people in their realisation of just how creative our constitutional monarchy is. I believe that it nurtures a true and profound democracy, perhaps the most successful, the most efficient and the most successful, the most efficient and the most bumane the most efficient and the most bumane.

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Leicester and the downside of diversity



media have done and effectively draw a veil over it. These are excitable chappies in one of our nation's less important cities. It isn't like this happened in Islington, after all.

Another is to do the knowing-cynic thing, the infinitely clever fifth-form response that we always hear in the pages of certain leftwow that we used to rule India? Don't you know that Pakistan's independence was not handled perfectly? Well then, what do you expect? And besides, the diversity that Britain is experiencing is merely an appropriate strikes back' theory is not only conceited but contradictory. For it sees migrants from the contradictory. For it sees migrants from the lindian subcontinent as both a blessing for contradictory and a just punishment.

But sadly the most common response is simply to shrug and hope for the best. We have had situations like this before, most notably in Oldham in 2001. Meanwhile, the government commissioned many reports, most notably the Cantle report and the Casey most notably the Cantle report and the Casey most notably the Cantle report and the Casey mest of the day and then put in a drawer.

Because after all, what are you going to do? Northern Ireland is still riven by ethnic tensions going back to the settlement of Protestants in the early 17th century. Things may politics is still dominated by the central question of whether or not it is right to torture and murder people and plant car-bombs in public places in order to make your point of view heard. The province's jury is still of view heard.

So why would anyone expect it to be different with the planting of Muslim, Hindu and other minorities in Britain? Ancient enmities do not die out because they are transplanted to the East Midlands. Nor can they be solved by the introduction of the occasional youth centre where people may play a bit of ping-pong.

There are all sorts of advantages to a multicultural society. But the downside is that we are only one internet rumour, flagible in your overprise chant away from civil unrest. Not my own preferred state for the country, but then I didn't make the rules, and it's hardly surprising that at such moments the people who did choose to keep their heads down, who did choose to keep their heads down.

ulous people, not least because of their belief in reincarnation. Hijab claimed that the Hindus must live in fear because they weak cowardly people. 'I'd rather be an aniwash, he went on.

Soon both sides were accusing the other of attacking their places of worship. Crowds of hundreds faced off in the streets with a thin line of police officers between them. Some in the mobs came armed with knives and other weapons. The British police force — notably filled with women, because diversity targets must be met — stood between the mobs armed with small sticks. I didn't see any trans officers, or gay ones dancing see any trans officers, or gay ones dancing

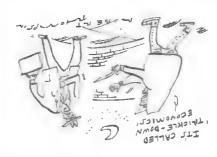
Ancient enmities cannot be solved by the occasional youth centre and game of ping-pong

the macarena, but I trust that there were some there in order to make the whole thing truly diverse.

By Monday the High Commission of India in London announced that it had taken the matter up with the UK authorities and was calling on them 'to provide protection to the affected people'. The affected people being the Indian community in Leicester whose Hindu religion was being attacked. It is quite something for the Indian government to be calling for a cessation of intra-

ernment to be easling for a cessation of intrareligious violence on the streets of Britain. That is the sort of thing the North Koreans and Chinese Communist party sometimes do for the lols. But not something that would have been expected from an allied state.

Still, there are a number of responses that you might have to the disturbances in Leicester. One is to do what most of the mainstream



years, if you import the world's peolems, which is not to say that you do not also get some upsides. The upsides of 'diversity' are focused on all the time. But we have a curious habit of downplaying the downsides. Just one of which erupted in the city of Leicester last week.

the Muslim gangs even more mobilised. which turned out to be untrue but which got media that a mosque had been attacked, Before long it was being claimed on social tearing down religious flags in Hindu areas. into attacks on property and Muslim gangs other on the streets of the city. This escalated both sides were chanting slogans against the A Sikh man was attacked and before long 'Pakistan Murdabad' ('Death to Pakistan'). local fans of the Indian side began shouting the India-Pakistan cricket match on the 28th, Hindus in the last days of August. During tially broke out between local Muslims and puted, but what is agreed on is that they ini-The origins of the disturbances are dis-

the Muslim gangs even more mobilised.

Hindu and Muslim groups across social media started to call for their men to come out on the streets – which they did. The Hindus chanted 'Pisi Shree Ram' ('Praise Lord Ram') and some were filmed carrying weapons, Muslims retaliated in kind and in one video were seen setting light to a Hindu flag. This inflamed tensions further and became a political scandal in the Indian media.

This week Hijab cropped up in Leicespoint, it counts as a great victory for the force. as long as a mob can be dispersed at some belief of the British police these days is that nothing much about the crowd itself, for the calm things down. Of course the police did left the protest by that time and later tried to want their blood', though Hijab says he had filmed chanting 'We'll find some Jews. We in inflammatory terms, a masked man was one anti-Israel protest addressed by Hijab ping up a mob on the streets of London. At slight name for himself last year by whipagitator, arrived on the scene, Hijab made a self as a reasoned interlocutor and a street Hijab, who rotates between presenting him-Soon charming people like Mohammed

ter to whip up his followers. Among other things he told them that Hindus are ridic-

he can't do it all by himself' 'Keir's not Superman,

Is Wes Streeting Labour's next leader?

ISABEL HARDMAN



ties and injustices in our society.' DNA to want to tackle these inequaliparty, because I think it's part of our reasons I'm a member of the Labour Hick back as he adds; 'It's one of the looking at a spot on the wall. His eyes childhood, he spends most of his time he's telling these stories from his with eye contact. But I notice when ber of his colleagues, doesn't struggle tician who, unlike a surprising num-Streeting is a very engaging poli-

ically active too, but he confesses parents. Streeting's family were politabout going campaigning with their Most Labour activists have a tale

ered them."" said was "Don't tell Nanny we haven't delivdeliver around the estate. And all my mum of leaflets round for me and my mum to and was very active, she dropped a load 'My nan was a member of the Labour party, his first campaign story is less than ideal:

extent of his underworld connections until grandad in prison, but didn't know the full clubs after her. Streeting himself visited his that the gangsters named one of their nightwith the Kray twins, and family legend has it bery. Libby's older sister Esme was friends and out of it after convictions for armed robtamiliar with prison than Libby, going in Bill, whom she later married. Bill was more with their investigations into her boyfriend was jailed after refusing to help the police on as the cellmate of Christine Keeler, She it emerged that she had spent time in prisject of a news story earlier this year when Streeting's nan, Libby, was the sub-

fle. The NHS is often Labour's comfort ow health secretary in last year's reshul-He replaced Jonathan Ashworth as shad-

> mum, life was very hard. I spent weekends with my dad. And for my me up as a single mum during the week, and father in my life but my mum was bringing after I was born. My dad was a very present

> home.' Streeting became used to seeing his not great memories of the lights going out at money in the meter ran out, so I've got some There were plenty of times where the

> great memories of the lights going out' meter ran out, so I've got some not Plenty of times the money in the

parents to be in.' gesture but also that's an awful position for you can have this." She was touched by the putting stuff back. I said to her, "Mummy, to me. And my mum was really struggling, of pocket money that my grandad had given ting something back and I had five pounds making her cry once because she was putised she couldn't afford them. 'I remember cery shopping, putting items back as she realmother doing arithmetic as she did the gro-

> ing's name invariably comes up. Like next leader, Wes Streetabout who could be their Then Labour MPs gossip

> Streeting became suspiciously more Keir Starmer. the leader of the opposition rather than of his comrades have wished he was moments in the past year when some it - yet. But there have been plenty of Rayner, he's never actually stood for not running for the top job. Also like tary spends half his time insisting he's leader, Labour's shadow health secre-Angela Rayner, the party's deputy

bencher, he shrugged: 'When has Wes not media appearances to another Labour front er this year. When I mentioned his frequent Covid restrictions reached its climax earliinto whether Starmer and Rayner breached visible as the 'Beergate' investigation

been running??

he was also active in student politics. before he entered parliament. At Cambridge, Stonewall and was a councillor in Redbridge trist. He worked as head of education for particularly if, like Streeting, you're a cenparty when it comes to factional infighting, NUS is even harder work than the Labour for two terms between 2008 and 2010. The president of the National Union of Students seems to be running for something. He was as the MP for Ilford North in 2015, often It's true that Streeting, who was elected

that relationship didn't last more than a year born, my dad was 17. I was an accident and teenage parents, my mum was 18 when I was upbringing in Tower Hamlets. 'I was born to poverty,' he explains, as he tells me about his minority of [MPs] who grew up experiencing a Blairite politician. I'm still one of a small His early life, however, isn't so typical of

the Daily Mail uncovered them.

NASIGNT AND MODERN

Crowd control



from riots to republicans objecting to homage to the Queen, is dealt with by the police, a force created in 1829. Romans too faced such problems, though many had no qualms about crushing free speech; and it took them some time to get a grip on them.

But the real question was how soldiers acting as snoopers. duties. We even hear of plain-clothes specific guard and crowd-control army to provide stationarii with system by drawing on the standing fires). Later emperors expanded the watchmen (mainly on the lookout for three Urban Cohorts and official nightwithin the city and backing it up with head on, locating his Praetorian guard with it. Augustus tackled the problem whatever forces were at hand to deal authorities could do little but muster out on the streets of Rome. The city faction or another regularly fought it crowds supporting one political Republic (c. 130-27 BC), violent

protests and disorder, from lighting over e.g. sporting events and top actors being prevented from appearing at festivals, were handled. The central point here is that emperors needed to was the last thing they wanted. So on certain issues (e.g. protests over food shortages), the people knew they would be heard.

to disperse the crowds. called in. That alone was often enough arrested, and if that failed, troops were protests continued, the leaders were a riot by having his letter read out.) If general interest. (Hadrian once calmed reprimanding them was more in the said he ought to imprison them but bakers rioted in Ephesus, the governor standing were often effective; when moderation from someone of high best ignored. Personal appeals for force. Simple insults and abuse were aiming above all to avoid excessive response to such situations evolved, only when all else fails'), a graduated wise advice ('resort to punishment

As for republican protests, the police have learned to treat them the Roman way – by turning a deaf ear. — Peter Jones

by nurses, who are balloting for strike action across Britain for the first time in the history of their Royal College, but will not be joining their picket lines, saying the party and trade unions have 'complementary but different roles to play'. Starmer, he says, has been right to be so clear about frontbenchers not joining strikes.

Where his leader has been less clear is on gender politics. Starmer and Rachel Reeves and many other top figures spent months agonising over whether only women have cervixes, after their colleague Rosic Duffield found herself on the wrong end of a hate mob for making that statement. Streeting then breezed into a radio studio, and answered the have vaginas, here ends my biology lesson. He later insisted it was wrong for campaigners to 'shut down' J.K. Rowling and other ers to 'shut down' J.K. Rowling and other 'gender critical' women.

have wondered why their leader couldn't There are those in Starmer's team who in a much clearer place than we were before?. them.' Labour is 'getting there, we've landed language that's being used is quite harmful to reading the papers. And I think some of the trans people watching these programmes and because I'm always mindful that there are approach, a more compassionate approach, It's a debate that requires a more thoughtful what kind of approach it wants to take... actually. But it has to think really hard about worked there, which I thought was a shame, wasn't a trans-inclusive organisation when I ist and protestor... Obviously Stonewall the insider-influencer, rather than the activbe the bridge-builder, when it sought to be its best on gay equality when it has sought to in the gender debate? 'Stonewall has been at his old employer and one of the key agitators What does Streeting think of Stonewall,

I here are those in Starmer's team who have wondered why their leader couldn't bave taken the party into that clearer place inmself, rather than relying on others. When I stock line of 'you never know what's going stock line of 'you never know what's going to happen in politics', before adding: 'I'm very mindful of the fact that Labour's never that as woman leader,' But he also explains that he thinks that as things are, he always 'has a leadership role in the Labour party.' 'After Keir and Rachel, [the health secretary role] will be the hardest job in government role] will be the hardest job in government after the next election if Labour wins.' He is firmly on Team Keir, but Keir's not Superfirmly on Team't do it all by himself'.

SWS N

Politics is back!

zone when it finds other issues too tricky to confront, but Streeting is happy to address difficult issues within health policy. He sees the private sector, for instance, as 'one or the levers' for tackling the backlog in treatment. The Labour party can't just rely on the same old hackneyed slogans on the NHS. We've got to demonstrate that it's rescue and reform.'

This is personal: he's only recently had the all-clear after being treated on the NHS for kidney cancer, and he says he's seen both the 'best and very frustrating elements' of the health service during that time. 'I'm going to be the patients' champion, and I'm not going to have any patience with producer interests, and with the sort of bureaucratic excuses that all patients down sometimes.'

I was on Budget Day in March last year that he ended up in A&E with severe pain caused by a kidney stone. The urologists noticed something unusual on his scan, and decided to investigate further. He was given his diagnosis a few weeks later over the phone when out campaigning with over the phone when out campaigning with would need to have an operation to remove the tumour, but the prognosis was very good. He stopped and said, "Do you have

'I'm going to be the patients' champion and I'm not going to have patience with bureaucratic excuses'

any questions, any reactions, how are you lecling?" I said, "Well if you'll excuse my language, doctor, you've delivered the shit sandwich rather well."

Because of Covid restrictions, Streeting couldn't take his partner, Joe, into the hospital with him for the operation. 'It was the loneliest I've ever felt in my entire life.' As a result, he pushed hard for family visiting rights to be restored as soon as possible in hospitals.

In his speech to Labour party conference next week, he plans to 'put my tanks very firmly on the Conservative party's lawn on the NHS because the dishonesty of Liz Truss's position is that she pretends that she can fix the immediate crisis in front of us without significant extra resource. And I just don't think that's credible.' He adds: 'But I think what's challenging for the left is also to understand and accept that there isn't a credible, long-term answer to the NHS that only involves more money going in.

'I'm absolutely committed to NHS free at the point of use, publicly funded, but I do think the system needs real reform in terms of the model of care we have in this counfar down the patient journey. We're pouring loads of money into hospitals, because we fail to grip conditions much earlier.'

He is sympathetic to the frustrations felt

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The poly-problems of polyamory



for a younger polyamorist. whingeing baby than to, say, go out scouting ers it more personally fulfilling to burp a fulfilment, and it's a rare man who considdefined love not as self-sacrifice but as selfsex massage.' The trouble is that they've the baby while you give Hugo his Thursday

by Kathy Labriola. 'This book will guide Insights for Managing Open Relationships with The Jealousy Workbook: Exercises and therapists recommend twice-weeldy sessions poly partner needs a lot of reassurance. Poly ousy in polyamory, everyone agrees, so each on this. There's enormous potential for Jealto be a polyamorous mother, lane. Trust me now plop into your polycule, you don't want And even if a nesting partner did some-

loss for someone to have a child with relationship with three people but at a So here's Jane, in a committed

of red and a paid nanny who under no cirneeds are far, far better met by a nice bottle at the door. Uh Jane... it's Thursday?' Your just as your baby finally latches on, it's Hugo tated copy of The Jealousy Workbook. Later, there's Rachel looking hurt with her annobreastfeeding. You hear a light knock and pies, trying to answer emails, struggling with Imagine being a new mother, washing nap-Dossie Easton, author of The Ethical Slut. ble selection of lifestyle choices,' promises bring you safely out to your widest possiyou through the labyrinth of jealousy and

It's oddly frowned on these days to think cumstances requires sex.



Congratulations! It's one of these!

not sure it much notices if they're actively aren't screaming or hitting each other, I'm blatantly untrue. As long as a kid's parents child is as close as anyone gets, and that's fulfilment. Happy parents make a happy dren. Perhaps it interferes with all the selfabout things from the perspective of the chil-

far from rational or ethical.

'throuples', who have had children because internet is full of three-person families, who the child's parents actually are. The amorous lovers; it's that it's often unclear child grow up with a revolving set of poly-It's not just the dubious idea of letting a And this is where polyamory becomes very tional love and a set of parents to bond with. happy. A child has different needs: uncondi-

The throuples all claim that no one parent is

- why not? 'It meets my needs right now.'

do. A child who once had three parents in throuples unthrouple, which they invariably don't much discuss is what happens when people to share the washing-up. What they work, and how fabulous it is to have three ca. They joke about many hands making light lars on breakfast TV both here and in Ameriin a landmark case in the US. They're reguon the birth certificates of their two children. legal battle for all three of them to be named authors of Three Dads and a Baby, fought a lan, Alan and Jeremy, for instance, the more significant than another.

to provide. near-impossible for a polyamorous polycule anything, and stability is the one thing it's ble. Stability is what a child needs more than tionships with each other, and they're stachildren are the focus, not their own relaes. For grandparents, aunts and uncles, the reminds us. But there are villages and villaghelped raise a child. It takes a village, she ents were surrounded by relatives who all return to the good old days when new pargamy, says that polyamorous parenting is a Tammy Nelson, author of Open Mono-

parents make a happy child, remember.

if the throuples throuple up again. But happy

any number of parents, quite possibly nine

one home may soon have three homes and

polyamorous relationships. Mary Wakefield and Elf Lyons on SPECTATOR.CO.UK/PODCASTS

> blindsided by biology. They want a child and liberated but who have nonetheless been nonships; women who thought they were seeking what they refer to as 'nesting relapolyamorous women out there desperately find sad: that there are growing numbers of one to have a child with. And this is what I people, but still at a total loss for some-Jane in a committed relationship with three enjoying an earnest and ethical life. Here's So here's Jane, nestled in her polycule, called a 'polycule'. and women in a polyamorous relationship is them by knowing that a collection of men

a grandchild, in which case you can surprise

non-monogamy' you might hear it called by

is all very serious and self-aware. Ethical

meet my needs at all. Anyway, polyamory

occurred to me that my marriage should

son, they say, though I'm not sure it's ever

needs are better met by more than one per-

tion and 'the false binary of marriage'. One's

much as politics: it's a rejection of conven-

friends, it doesn't seem to be about orgies so

when we hear polyamory, but for lane and

one over 50 is monogamous, this means an

'polyamorous', and given that almost every-

Some 5 per cent of Americans say they're

now in parts of London and across the US. this, I've discovered, is par for the course

beobje and they live in a shared house - and

mitted romantic relationship with three other

in the ad, just in passing. She is in a com-

beobje tpese qays don't drink until they pass

is a near-professional baker. Because young spe climbs, plays the cello, writes plays and

she have a well-paid job in a tech firm, but

usual alarming millennial way. Not only does

se: spe's attractive and accomplished in the

There was nothing sad about lane per

let's call her Jane - looking for a man

a dating advert written by a woman –

The saddest thing I saw this week was

out, they have time for hobbies.

to start a family with.

Jane is also polyamorous, she mentioned

awful lot of poly youth.

We leering Gen X-ers might think sex

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a polycule? 'Yes love, don't worry, I'll hold

are going to jump at the chance to parent in

them for their optimism, but how many men but they're sunk now, aren't they? I admire what sounds suspiciously like a husband,

but is this the moment to scrap it? The bonus cap was boneheaded



of England, that their returns would have Mervyn King, then governor of the Bank Savers were effectively told in 2008 by week, perhaps topping 4 per cent next year.

Bank, high-street banks are currently over-But according to analysis by Deutsche is the value of most pensions. while capital is being eaten by inflation, as teen years later, interest is still negligible plunged to avert economic meltdown. Fourto be sacrificed for the greater good as rates

feel the chill. yet again, it's the frugal elderly who will gation to offer more attractive rates. And compete for deposits, no incentive or obliflowing with cash: they have no need to

Back to work? Yes, Ma'am

to mention the 'reputational risk' of building Leadership Council was also honest enough shuttered window, but the Construction eries? 'Respect' was mentioned in every markets and factories to Royal Mail delivwhat of all the other closures, from superday so staff could watch the funeral. But the decision) to tell guests to go home for a Center Parcs (which rapidly backtracked on postpone vital appointments and idiotic of ing? It was clearly wrong of the MHS to Did we all take too much time off for mourn-

anything and everything. But knowing her what she might really have thought about fered in death a surfeit of speculation as to to her personal opinions, the Queen has sufinward investment. Famously inscrutable as itself attracts a wave of tourist spending and cit, even if the awesomeness of the funeral can have helped the UK's productivity defiers relished extra time off. And none of this too - while many furlough-softened workly to be quiet, but that was surely a factor overtime on days when business was like-No employer admitted not wanting to pay sites being seen to be busy. cial interest rates rise - up another step this paying commensurate deposit rates as offi-Here's another thing banks should be doing:

ill-designed EU regulation. cient and transparent without an overlay of days. Like much else, it will be more effilonger-term performance than in the bad old

Bring on the banking hubs

And if I need anything else from a bank, I I just wave my phone like magic money. everywhere. In fact I don't even use a card, rest,' you might be thinking, 'I pay by card ahead, does that really matter? 'Give it a as fast. But amid the panorama of problems decade. Free ATMs are disappearing almost than one in three across the UK in the past Bank branch closures continue apace: more

Bully for you, but many others still rely

- and, nowadays, food banks - are the vital comer shops, libraries, town halls, churches coming recession. Post offices, pubs, cafés, All this will become more evident in the a town that no longer has paying-in facilities. agent who's a National Lottery franchisee in nesses need banks too: think of the newscard debt is painfully permicious. Small busiishing eash is the simplest budget control and on real money and wisely so, because dimin-

make sure the hubs happen. tional interests as well as the public good, is least the banks can do, in their own reputaother town centres go cold this winter, the and 'bringing life back to the high street'. As conneillor says the hub is 'busier and busier' tively and subject to 'review'. A Cambuslang towns have been named, but all rather tentaland and Rochford in Essex. Another 13 hub sites have opened - at Cambuslang in Scotdisgrace that only two of the first ten chosen lost cash facilities was a good thing and it's a ate shared banking hubs in places that have role. So a scheme announced last year to crethreads of social fabric, and banks also have a

Savers' sacrifice

we're told - wants to remove the legsharpen the City's competitive edge, hancellor Kwasi Kwarteng keen to

of gaming an unwelcome restraint on their ly provoke wily moneymen to find ways ,poneheaded, measure that would meretainly not. This column called the cap a The answer to the first question is cerbreed of greedy bastards? moment to do so? And are bankers still a as soon as we left the EU? Is now the ideal the first place? If not, why wasn't it binned esting questions. Was the cap a good idea in with shareholder approval. That raises interof their base salary, or up to 200 per cent that limits bankers' bonuses to 100 per cent islative cap, imported from Brussels in 2014,

As to why the cap still applies, 20 months ty for the sins that preceded 2008. punish the Anglo-Saxon financial communithe House of Lords - whose real aim was to Dem, Sharon Bowles, now luxuriating in left-leaning MEPs led by a British Lib scheme's promoters and true believers were European Court but was beaten back. The cellor George Osborne challenged it in the as base pay rose accordingly. The then chanincreased risk by adding to their fixed costs mid-2000s, but banks themselves claimed it a return to the excessive risk-taking of the wealth. Its stated aim was to discourage

public response will be even more hostile. later, when hardship is more widespread, the all fronts, including pay. If he scraps the cap must be free to compete with New York on rowing plans and can argue that the City Kwarteng needs markets onside for his bornow the right moment? Of course not, but on Rishi Sunak's agenda. Does that make wildly insensitive and it was probably never ping it during Covid would have looked after we left the EU, the answer is that scrap-

clawbacks, is far more closely aligned to system, hedged about with deferrals and of the financial world. But its remuneration its collapse - still applies throughout much of the Wall Street firm Bear Stearns before Jet's make nothing but money' - the slogan And the 'greedy bastards' question? Yes,

to switch off the telly, get off the sofa and

tive wellbeing, I feel sure she'd be urging us

own work ethic and concern for our collec-

kickstart the economy again.

BOOKS P



Rupert Christiansen is drawn into an orgiastic drawn into an orgiastic danse macabre in Leeds masterpiece at Park Theatre Deborah Ross is too tired for Lena Dunham

Arisne Bankes is charmed by Lucian Freud's quirky, misspelt letters for find Michael Palin in a spot of bureaucratic bother at a border crossing

Jonathan Sumption argues that Mato expansion was probably worth the risk of enduring Russian hostility Lucasta Miller follows Keats on his last agonising journey to Rome

'The Forest of Bavella, Corsica, 7:10 a.m., 29 April 1868' by Edward Lear Laura Gascoigne – p45

BOOKS

Grand old man of British music

is now beyond dispute - and can only grow, says Simon Heffer Ralph Vaughan Williams's towering position in our national life

Yet the great value of the book is Saylor's home at Dorking) and man of deep principle. money into the Leith Hill Festival near his from time to time, and put much of his own a philanthropist (he bankrolled Gustav Holst notably his life as a teacher, but also as of Vaughan Williams's other activities, And Saylor gives a comprehensive account Adeline's friends were positively hostile. composer's child, and that other of his and an abortion in about 1941, possibly of the la. Saylor puts on the record that Ursula had all she could to encourage and support Ursu-Adeline not only turned a blind eye but did matoid arthritis, was still alive, and that poser's first wife, greatly disabled by rheuconducted an affair while Adeline, the com-96). It was widely known that the two had

ment simply on the human condition. persuasive, representing the work as a comof the canon - is particularly intelligent and write it in 1944, and an absolutely crucial part was just finishing as the composer began to bly, seen as a depiction of the terrible war that sixth symphony – so often, and understandaand other major works. His evaluation of the yses and interpretations of the symphonies intelligent view of the music, notably his anal-

have and keep. of Vaughan Williams and his music should a composer. This is a book that every admirer tural history but the whole development of and illustrates not an incremental step in culinstead, in which the music speaks for itself, said for the objective view that must be taken perplexing. Equally, there is something to be Suite' was written by Holst and not Crieg is ciate; indeed his belief that the 'Holberg land, might be hard for an outsider to apprerience that he has with listeners in his own music, the shared and atavistic cultural expeessential Englishness of Vaughan Williams's in British music. Some would argue that the America, albeit with considerable expertise Saylor is an American writing from

a fine folk song Vaughan Williams collected the story behind 'The Captain's Apprentice', Caroline Davison's book is initially about

> international music, can only grow. position in our national life, and as a figure in dispute, and the recognition of his towering the landmarks of English culture is beyond tionally great one. Now his place as one of away realising he was actually an excepsimply a good composer would have come sent who had thought Vaughan Williams was symphonies Nos. 4, 5 and 6. Anyone prea quite scorching concert the three middle

two pooks are a part of that commemoration. the week on Radio 3 for a month and these a wealth of tributes - he was composer of His sesquicentenary, too, has sumulated

equivalent to a moment of rare ecstasy of Vaughan Williams's works was For some years, finding performances

its place in that distinguished company. 'Master Musicians' series, and is well worth Eric Saylor's is in Oxford University Press's

biography, even the standard one by his - that is to say, up to 1914 - than any other to give a far fuller picture of the early years the letters, Saylor can draw on this resource ting his teeth as a composer. Together with century, when Vaughan Williams was cutof these date from the early years of the last unrecorded works and record them. Many many of the composer's unperformed or Williams Society, to hunt down scores of Records, the recording arm of the Vaughan been the untailing commitment of Albion OUP volume and online. The second has the composer's letters, both as a substantial Coppe's magnificent initiative to publish the turn of the century. The first is Hugh ments in Vaughan Williams studies since The author draws on two great develop-

Ursula was still alive (she died in 2007, aged vented a biographer from publishing while Williams's private life that discretion pre-Also, there was much about Vaughan logue by Michael Kennedy.

extensive biographical notes in the cata-

widow Ursula Vaughan Williams, and the

OUP, £22.99, pp. 336 by Eric Saylor Vaughan Williams

and the Story of a Folk Song The Captain's Apprentice: Ralph Vaughan Williams

Chatto & Windus, £20, pp. 400 by Caroline Davison

rare ecstasy. cert halls, was equivalent to a moment of es of his works, especially in London conit remained the case that finding performanceclipse resumed after 1972. For some years farts and a raspberry, orchestrated'. The a diet of what Kathleen Ferrier called 'three British music-loving public should be fed on halls. These were people who believed the Third Programme and many of our concert because of the atonalists who controlled the his works had gone into an eclipse, not least Since the composer's death in 1958 he and commemorating gay pride, issued a stamp. Post Office, which is now more focused on there special concerts of his music but the ample respects were shown. Not only were you. In 1972, on the centenary of his birth, works of Ralph Vaughan Williams will tell numous reputations, as any admirer of the Classical music plays hell with people's post-

that of Vaughan Williams. they promoted British music, and not least the BBC ought to have been constituted to do: Radio 3 and the Proms at last did something about him. Under the rule of Roger Wright, in business. Tony Palmer made a superb film the 50th anniversary of his death, he was back be spotted on concert programmes. By 2008, 'Greensleeves' and the 'Tallis Fantasia' could and works other than The Lark Ascending', ed to record cycles of his nine symphomes, things changed, Eminent conductors start-But then, from about the late 1980s,

direction of Andrew Manze, performed in tish Symphony Orchestra, under the brilliant 2012 Proms season, when the BBC Scot-Something of a turning point came in the



Ralph Vaughan Williams: composer, teacher, philanthropist and folk-song collector

imagination of aspects of what else happened. There will be some who think this is a good idea. I am not one. At times I wondered whether her book had been edited at all; it would certainly have benefited from being shorter, more focused and better organised. It is a shame, for her intentions are honourable, and this was an important moment in able, and the last researches into the composite, and the last researches into the composite, and the years when he hunted down folk songs still contain much to be uncovered and fitted into place.

book diverts into a biography of the composer's early years, much of which is familiar, and into ruminations on the effect on the author herself of the song that gives her book its title, and of the first 'Norfolk Rhapsody' in which, orchestrated, it plays so integral a part.

Davison appears to have benefited (if that is the word) from a 'creative non-fiction' course at a university. The effects of this are, I fear, seen in other diversions, where she amplifies contemporary reports of court cases about cruel sea captains with her own cases about cruel sea captains with her own

in King's Lynn in 1905. The song tells the tale of a boy taken out of the town's workhouse to work on board a merchant ship, and who was so brutally treated by the captain that 'the poor boy died'. Davison is to be commended on the detail she produces about the composer's visit to Norfolk, the people he met there and the songs they sang to him. She correctly provides ample context about be met there and the songs they sang to him. Vaughan Williams's folk-song collecting generally, and the other people (such as Cecil generally, Maud Karpeles, George Burterworth Maud Holst) with whom he did it. But then the and Holst) with whom he did it. But then the

at once and reported: international politics, saw the implications

to the heart at that: Ukraine. think of as part of their own body politic and near loss of something Russians of all political stripes may not be the collapse of communism but the The most revolutionary event of 1991 for Russia

welcome Ukraine. this day neither organisation has dared to both the European Union and Nato. But to The Baltics eventually became members of

lite communist regimes on them for the next central Europe in 1944-5 and imposed satelman Turkey. It conquered all of eastern and It was constantly beating at the gates of Ottothroughout the 19th and 20th centuries. of the Slav regions of south-eastern Europe 19th-century Poland. It posed as the protector It brutally suppressed successive risings in and the Baltic states in the 18th century. ment in eastern Europe. It grabbed Poland It has always had a strong sense of entitlea predatory autocracy for three centuries. and this seems unlikely. Russia has been voked Russia would have been more benign, Kissinger view assumes that an unproity? The answer is: probably. The Kennan. enduring Russian resentment and hostiltion. Was Nato expansion worth the risk of ing book one comes back to the same ques-At nearly every page of this outstand-

gracefully into oblivion,' observed the ever handled after 1989. Great empires do not go not have gone away, however Russia had been older and more fundamental origins. It would humiliations of the 1990s, but it had much tasy no doubt derived its intensity from the inherited rights over eastern Europe. This fan-Catherine the Great, he was asserting Russia's of the expansionary 18th-century Tsarina the end of last year, Putin invoked the ghost When, in a now notorious essay written at 50 years.

Bush and Bill Clinton might have rejected More cautious statesmen than George sprewd Strauss from the Moscow embassy.

The consequences of leaving former Rus-West had a choice after 1989. there was no alternative then, whereas the did at Tehran in 1943 and Yalta in 1945. But sian domination. It is what the wartime allies condernn a third of Europe to indefinite Rusa grotesque essay in great power politics to Nato membership. But it would have been the pleas of the central European states for

It may have been the wisest judgment. ing Nato's reach were pointed out to him. that,' Bush replied when the risks of extendthe face of Russian brute force. 'To hell with engaged in a desperate struggle for survival in The Crimea was annexed. Ukraine is now and its democracy 'managed' out of existence. gia was dismembered. Belarus was bribed, foundered. Chechnya was reconquered. Geordecades. Those which had no Nato guarantee ter became painfully clear in the next three sian satellites at the mercy of their old mas-

> exchange fell well short of an agreement, but Baker told Gorbachev in February 1990. The eastward from its present position' was what within its current boundaries. Not one inch prepared to promise that Nato would stay Baker and Kohl were not, but they were Genscher seemed willing to concede it. The German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich American commitment to European defence. have destroyed Nato and put an end to the neutrality, something which would probably

and Yeltsin were pressed too far they would policy now was the feat that if Gorbachev off after all. The only constraint on American ised crime. Russia did not have to be bought power subsided into bankruptcy and organits allies abandoned it, and a once great Union itself, as it split into 15 separate states, followed by the disintegration of the Soviet apparent. The end of the Warsaw Pact was the enormity of the Russian collapse became American policy grew more ambitious as Russian governments never forgot it.

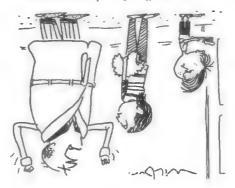
hostility? The answer is: probably of enduring Russian resentment and Was Nato expansion worth the risk

It did happen, but too late, when Putin gerous. It nearly happened in August 1991. Moscow, who would be much more danbe removed and replaced by hardliners in

By the time he retired, Yeltsin had recsucceeded Yeltsin in 2000.

The American ambassador in Mosby a large majority to go their own way. a referendum in 1991, the Ukrainians voted he did not reckon on losing Ukraine. Yet, in the Soviet Union by taking Russia out of it, topol in the Crimea. When Yeltsin destroyed Russian Black Sea fleet was based at Sevaset nuclear arsenal was stationed there. The Russia for a millennium. Much of the Soviticularly sensitive issue. It had been joined to (the word means 'border region') was a partic republics were sticking points. Ukraine membership. But Ukraine and the three Baltoyed with the idea of applying for Russian Warsaw Pact allies to Nato. He had even onciled himself to the migration of Russia's

cow, Robert Strauss, a savvy newcomer to



for the bathroom! enant of and mon I am list though

Jonathan Sumption The ultimate gamble

and the Making of Post-Cold Not One Inch: America, Russia

War Stalemate

Yale University Press, £25, pp. 568 by M.E. Sarotte

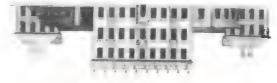
and Nato's advance to the frontiers of the old saw Russia's brief dalliance with democracy of the Berlin wall in 1989, a period which during the decade which followed the fall relations with Europe and the United States Sarotte traces the difficult course of Russia's This is an important and topical book. Mary

Kohl and the American secretary of state notably the wily German chancellor Helmut manoeuvred by more skilful politicians, how successive Russian leaders were outwas on to something. For this is the story of ic material, it became obvious that Sarotte much disclosure of confidential diplomat-Dmitry Peskov was moved to denounce so ers. When Vladimir Putin's spokesman of documents previously closed to researchand the Americans to declassify thousands foreign ministry to open its archives to her, cal coup, Sarotte has persuaded the German so fully or so well. In a remarkable histori-The story has been told before, but never Soviet Union.

but her instinct is much the same. era". Sarotte's judgment is more cautious, American policy in the entire post-Cold War Times to denounce 'the most fateful error of Kennan took to the pages of the New York issues with their larger neighbour, In 1997 countries on Russia's borders with ancient the American nuclear guarantee to unstable also worried about the risks of extending her in her moment of weakness. They were thought it the height of folly to humiliate macy Henry Kissinger and George Kennan ry. Those elder statesmen of American diplosat at Europe's top table since the 18th centua big country with nuclear weapons. It has should have been accommodated. Russia is always believed that their sensitivities of opinion in the US State Department has tent ferocity from the start. A powerful strand controversial. Russia resisted it with impo-The expansion of Nato has always been James Baker.

their consent. Russia pressed for German the West would have to pay a high price for which followed. At one time it looked as if man unification and the expansion of Nato sin were in a strong position to resist Gerof 1945, Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltoccupation under the four-power agreements in East Germany and a cast-iron right of in front of them. With some 340,000 soldiers ing in halting steps as chance opened doors policy was essentially opportunistic, advancthere was no western master plan. American In spite of persistent Russian suspicions,





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its scent' can always 'make life seem worth ria, where 'a view of the sea and a trace of sad to leave lavishly imagined Minghethe senses and flexes the mind. You will be novel of ideas has becalmed patches, it stirs erous hybrid of epidemic soap opera and cargo afloat and on the move. If this gencharm and cunning as he keeps his bulky man's caïque. Pamuk, though, shows nous,

Chloë Ashby A complicated bond

The Best of Friends

iving againi.

Bloomsbury Circus, £18,99, pp. 336 by Kamila Shamsie

there, but the bubbles are contained. It's author's seventh novel, the tension is still and onto the stove. In Best of Friends, the water level rising until it spills over the lip Five, I picture a pot boiling on a hob, the When I think of Kamila Shamsie's Home

We first meet Maryam and Zahra as the protagonists. unlike the 'shared subtexts' that pass between more of a simmer, gentle but insistent - not

a compromising position and sees Maryam ocratic Pakistan that puts the two friends in a snap decision at a party celebrating a demby the prospect of something new, she makes world than I'd believed,' says Zahra. Excited It feels like more things are possible in the Benazir Bhutto, becomes prime minister. a military coup, dies, and a young woman, bright when General Zia, who seized power in sity in Britain or America. The future looks fil her dream of attending a top-tier univerneeds to gain a scholarship if she's to fulto academics'. Zahra is hard-working and Maryam is wealthy, with a 'casual attitude bomb and riot alarms, everyday violence). a 'repellent dictator' (censored television, sadly become standard when living under ies, boys) and the kind of concerns that with standard teenage stuff (budding bod-Karachi and the two girls are preoccupied 14-year-olds. It's the summer of 1988 in

tal News. In their forties, the women still have a top venture capitalist, appears in Tech Capianother straighter interview with Maryam, for Civil Liberties, runs in the Guardian; view with Zahra, now head of the Centre reintroduce the characters: a pithy interbe - someone. Two back-to-back profiles made herself 'exactly what she'd wanted to lier stretches' north-west. And yet Zahra has Primrose Hill, Zahra in 'one of the unlove-The pair are living in London - Maryam in The narrative then skips forward to 2019. takes place almost halfway through the book. in Pakistan until this fateful night, which lives in London, sticks with the 14-year-olds Shamsie, who was raised in Karachi and shipped off to boarding school.

> Stricken Mingheria becomes a microand the sources of the plague. search poth for Bonkowski's shadowy killers New brain and old brawn compete in the isolation, foot-flogging and incincration). tigative measures (arbitrary detention, mass scientific epidemiology vie with cruder inveswhile, 'Sherlock Holmes methods' and continues to shrink'. On Mingheria, meanbrovinces break away; the imperial map

saga can exert the hypnotic pull of those hiswith its leisurely flow, however, and the island sometimes tortoise-footed, story-telling. Go tion captures our historian's fussily pedantic, pace. Ekin Oklap's cleverly voiced transladetail. It thickens the texture but slows the gherian map with precise, almost obsessive Mazhar Effendi shiver, Pamuk crams his Mindank cells where victims of 'chief scrutineer' From the lodges of 'charlatan sheikhs' to lockdown: 'Nobody ever wants a quarantine.' lims, inflamed by sectarians, revolt against slip away. Well-off Greeks flee. Wary Musern and Ottoman fashions - sees authority pocket watch that tells the time in both westgovernor Sami Pasha - with his twin-dialled toll mounts, the island's amiable, conciliatory cosm of the Ottoman twilight. As the death

mystique of a holy nation and its unique lan-Turkish cult of Atatürk. On the reborn isle, the Pamuk fire off sly barbed darts at the official ism', fronted by the dashing Major Kâmil, lets The rise of Mingherian 'romantic nationalinto insurrection, both religious and secular. In this 'time of anarchy', unrest boils over

torical soaps Turkish TV does so well.

Soon 'nationalist fervour blurs the lines identity 'as sacred as an act of prayer'. guage makes the affirmation of Mingherian

standing in a comer like a faded rose. ry', Pakize will not waste her privileged life the spotlight. On this 'stage of world histothe princess and her doctor husband into of revolutionary epochs. A late twist thrusts repeats, at speed and in miniature, the history lar uprisings multiply as the plague summer Lysol' on the other, Palace coups and poputeric knowledge, on one hand, 'microbes and taith and science tussle: the sheikhs, esothe grotesque progress of the pestilence as Atlantis or Utopia. Yet the novel also traces becomes an island of ideas, twinned with between... myth and reality'. Mingheria

can feel as overloaded as an Arkaz boatmystery and pseudo-history, Nights of Plague As it pivots between saga and satire,



Thank heaven life can at lasi return to normal.

Boyd Tonkin An empire crumbles

by Orhan Pamuk, Sugal4 so strigible

medieval castle.

Faber, £20, pp. 704 translated by Ekin Oklap

White Mountain and the gloomy turrets of the harbour of Arkaz, flanked by the radiant postmen will tow you to the picturesque or Alexandria. A crew of Greek or Muslim steamer after sailing from Smyrna, Piracus island' south of Rhodes from a comfortable you disembark at this 'calm and charming On a spring day, as the 20th century dawns, Welcome to Mingheria, 'pearl of the Levant'.

trees and the famous Mingherian roses waft The fragrances of honeysuckle, linden

Orhan Pamuk began writing his tenth tattle. Infection? You'll find no disease here... egades in the bare hills: mischievous tittleof banditry by Orthodox or Islamist renthe bustling markets. As for those rumours bul. Savour figs, oil, nuts and cheeses in the sultan's government in faraway Istan-State Hall, the grand buildings funded by es and newer mosques, the neo-classical

Turkey's Nobel laureate. Nights of Plague novel in 2016. In 2020, reality caught up with over azure seas. Admire the ancient church-

he uncovers 'mysterious links... between hismodernity and group identity. Along the way, epidemic and its outcomes but nationalism, a densely crosshatched parable not just of an dimensional fairy tale' - the backdrop for Mingheria. His dream island hosts a 'three-700 pages, he does the same for imaginary street, smell by smell, brick by brick. Over world-building. He remakes the city street by Pamuk relishes meticulous, immersive In his novels of Istanbul past and present, Ottoman state loses its grip. Muslims - while the tottering, panicky people - equal numbers of Christians and

In 1901, an outbreak of plague scourges its

down and dread on a fictitious Aegean island.

chronicles eight months of pestilence, lock-

prits and battle a galloping epidemic that the patched there. They must hunt down the cul-Bonkowski Pasha, Nuri and Pakize are des-Mingheria of the Ottoman public health chief, and prince consort' Nuri. After the murder on of a sort in marriage to the progressive 'doctor Raised in a gilded cage, Pakize finds liberation ist but authoritarian brother Abdul Hamid II. and confined to palace arrest by his retorm-Sultan Murad V, who in 1876 was deposed the invented daughter of the actual Ottoman from letters written by Princess Paldze. She is as a narrative compiled by a modern historian Pamuk frames his journal of a plague year tory and objects, and nations and writing'.

detective stories (as he really did). Rebel Back in Istanbul, Abdul Hamid devours enfeebled empire wants to deny.

Ink wash by Joseph Severn of Keats on his deathbed pspoemamess



the likely cardinal in question: Annibale della Genga, who, according to Stendhal, enjoyed 'the pleasures of the chase'. He went on to become Pope Leo XII,

biographical insights. ments can offer moving and important new shows us how even affectless official docuby Fanny Brawne and her mother? Gallenzi ter in Rome before going home to die, nursed country, or was Keats in fact hoping to wincratic reason for foreigners to cite their home his passage to Naples. Was there some bureaudoes the police certificate locally required for to him puts England as his final destination, as interesting to discover that the passport issued which he called his 'death warrant'. So it's blood-spitting incident in February 1820, medic, he had no illusions following his first was terminally ill before he set off. A trained There is little doubt that Keats knew he

Keats wrote no poetry in this period and his own unmediated voice falls silent after 30 November, when he pens his last ever letter, addressed to his friend Charles Brown and containing his poignant envoi: 'I always made an awkward bow.' But Severn's on-the-spot correspondence offers a harrowing running commentary on his decline. It was to Severn that Keats dictated his own epitaph, 'Here lies one whose name was writ in water', from which Gallenzi adapts his title.

His decision to focus on these last months intensifies our apprehension of the grotesque physical suffering and bitter mental anguish Keats went through in his final weeks, espe-

The value of the book lies in its author's passion for chasing up previously unexplored details. Use of contemporary public sources, for example, allows him to pinpoint the exact time of day (shortly after 9 a.m.) and the moment the Maria Crowther, a merchant-man, weighed anchor on the Thames near the Tower of London with Keats and Severn on Doard (he is not able to determine the exact what it is not able to determine the exact post of London with Keats and Severn on Tower of London with Keats and Severn on Doard (he is not able to determine the exact what they making the is sailed)

whart from which it sailed).

He fleshes out the family history of one of the only two other passengers en route for Maples: the teenage Maria Cotterell, who, like Keats, was already far gone with consumption and who was fated to die not long after him. We learn that her brother, who met her brief, friendly acquaintance with Keats and brief, friendly acquaintance with Keats and Severn, lived for another 50 years, ultimately brotograph, Gallenzi is full of wonder at the emigrating to New Zealand. Looking at his photograph, Gallenzi is full of wonder at the quirks of history: 'Who knows if this man who shook hands with Keats... would ever who shook hands with Keats... would ever

at him 150 years on?*

Odd tangents add unexpected colour and texture. While travelling across the Campagna on the last leg of their journey to Rome, Severn and Keats witnessed the bizarre sight of a cardinal shooting small birds in his voluminous acarlet cloak, attracting his prey by brandishing an owl loosely tied to a stick brandishing an owl loosely tied to a stick along with a small mirror. Gallenzi explains along with a small mirror. Gallenzi explains along with a small mirror. Gallenzi explains that this was the traditional method of hunting skylarks and, amazingly, even tracks down skylarks and, amazingly, even tracks down

have imagined that we would be staring back

their differences, but they remain best friends and get together every Sunday.

If you're worried that a novel about the longevity of childhood friendship sounds sentimental, don't be. Tangled up with Maryam and Zahra's relationship are questione of responsibility, justice, power and ethics. When Maryam joins an elite donor club that's shamelessly pumping money into the UK government and which stands for everything Zahra has 'spent her professioned with Edighting', their faith in one another is al life fighting', their faith in one another is tested. Life in London may seem simple compested with Karachi, but politics is politics.

The British are too complacent that their democracy is so robust it can't be weakened—things that would set off alarm bells in countries with histories of authoritarian rule are allowed to slide by with little noise here.

As Lahra tells the Guardian:

It's the deep-rooted and complicated bond between the two women that keeps us turning the pages. Shamsie explores the changing nature of friendship, the way it consumes you when you're young and later becomes about being there' when it matters. Also, the way it clouds your judgment. Zara reflects:

The problem with childhood friendship was that you could sometimes fail to see the adult in front of you because you had such a fixed idea of the teenager she once was, and other times you were unable to see the teenager still alive and kicking within the adult.

Alive and kicking beneath the surface.

Death in Rome Lucasta Miller

Written In Water: Keats's Final Journey by Alessandro Gallenzi Alma Books, £16.99, pp. 320

On Sunday I7 September 1820, John Keals and his travelling companion, the young painter Joseph Severn, set sail for Italy, where it was hoped that the warmer climate would benefit the poet's failing health. It didn't. He died of tuberculosis in Rome the following February at the age of only 25.

The last five months of Keats's life – the sea voyage to Naples, including ten exhausting days stuck in the bay in quarantine; the overland journey to Rome; his last weeks spent in the rooms above the Spanish Steps that are now a museum – are the focus of this enthralling and original new study. Its author, Alessandro Gallenzi, the publisher of Alma Books, is well acquainted with Keats's letters, having recently translated them into Italian. That experience revealed to him that the last phase of Keats's much told story has been the least well documented to date.

The Book of Goose

Fourth Estate, £16.99, pp. 348 17 undix dq

disconcerting, mesmerising fifth novel The Agnès Moreau, the narrator of Yiyun Li's Ishmael'. But there's a reason for this. quite the same confidence as 'Call me but that is not important' does not have As introductions go, 'My name is Agnès,

Fabienne, avoiding other girls their age, childhood in Saint Rémy. She and her friend French bride' Agnès raises geese, she Writing from Pennsylvania, where the by accident. Book of Goose, only became a storyteller

that they should write a book together. and minding cows - until Fabienne decides spent their days lying among gravestones remembers post-war rural France and her

is where Agnès's accidental authorship M. Deveaux, to publish the volume. This enlist the help of the local postmaster, dead children, dead animals - and the girls Fabienne's stories are dark - dead babies,

elation that Fabienne has died in childbirth -The Book of Goose begins with the revthe girls' friendship follow. ing school and the gradual disintegration of attention, a solourn at an English boardthe undeserved fame of child prodigy. Press name on it, and it is she who must endure comes in: the work appears with only her

This conceit - a book in which one of she is not here to tell me what I have missed?. fact that 'half of this story is [Fabienne's], but spends much of the time railing against the 'the same manner as her sister' - and Agnès

younger, the girls could never be 'two bod-Despite what Agnès believed when she was a duo, even before one person has died. means to be one of a pair, a half of a whole, ferent. Li is continually questioning what it ries. But The Book of Goose is subtly difobsessively rereads her dead lover's dia-I Go (2020) followed a woman as she son who has committed suicide, and Must a conversation between a mother and her to Yiyun Li. Where Reasons End (2019) was wan ton ai - beab si sratteral chartenes aft

it's this well told, it's impossible not to agree. experience, any life a life', writes Li. When geese Agnès watches. Any experience is existences as slow as the passively 'floating' lives: childhood friendship, growing up, and poise, Li depicts the intricacies of ordinary is something brilliant. With characteristic by tragedy. But within this sombre mood can never materialise and her life is stalked Agnès is a 'faux prodigy', her 'big dreams' This is a novel of deceptions and cruelty. ies in one;

But the calm clarity of the commentary vive, thanks to the vagaries of fortune, where

ily patchy, following those letters that sur-

can match. Yet the narrative is necessar-

preoccupations in a way that no biographer

illustrated page conveys Freud's moods and

be. The raw spontaneity and energy of each

on how primary you like your sources to

eral biographies already written depends

what to include/exclude almost burning off

nale, his ratcheting anxiety and irritation about

mishes over his inclusion in the Venice Bien-

How much this volume adds to the sev-

for Freud affeionados and amateur psycholoas we shall ever have, and compelling reading vivid a Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man rarely seen photographs. Altogether, this is as complement Freud's words and artworks with throw light on frequent obscurity, and they ness to the painter, allied with keen research, David Dawson never intrude. Yet their closea Blue Scarf') and Freud's longtime assistant (a friend, and the subject of 'Man with In editing this volume, Martin Gayford included here have never been seen before. spins it all together, and many of the letters

others have perished or disappeared.

gists alike.

the page.

see you want have be send inte

if t described to you m.

bek time of the lable cloth

Letter to Michael Nelson, first half of 1940

low life of Europe. buccaneered through the high life and as Eggy-Peggy and much else, as they The two shared a private language known then Lucian by his own nature was surreal.' unexpected, the thing taken out of context, being a bit surreal; if surrealism was the who later observed: 'I think he couldn't help est in these letters to 'Spag' or 'Craggs',

J

month don apprenance it

في المعدود من المعدود المعدود المعدود المعدود من المعدود من المعدود ا

was a num of Heans I should sen

write you a mobe of structe simpathiles פר דוף פר בוצמיור מואומן כר כמיףוצ מן

Love affairs and a first marriage soared

to Caroline Blackwood, and the many skirvolume ends with Freud's second marriage, have friends, he had golfing friends. The He wasn't nasty, he was ghastly, he didn't dictably he loathed her new husband lan: favourite correspondents, though predress ball in Biarritz. She was among his to Ann Fleming on a high-society fancy On he went carousing, reporting back that I live as a painter and as a person'.

ings, but it is through my tastes and feelings

are created entirely by my tastes and feel-

admits that 'the wolves and their needs

Admonished for his spendthrift ways, he

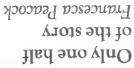
ous patrons are among his most self-aware.

fund the gambling, and his letters to vari-

in fits and starts but never fast enough to

accumulated. Freud's career progressed

and crashed, law suits threatened and debts



2 GranCanaria

HAVE A GRAND TIME IN GRAN CANARIA

The island's natural beauty, historical attractions and delectable cuisine lend themselves to a luxury twin-centre break By Erica Bush







for sweeping volcanic views. Stop for lunch in Parador Cruz de Tejeda, renowned for its gastronomy based on local recipes with the moderr twist. Marking the geographical centre of the island, The Parador offers breathtaking panoramic views. Here, at almost 2,000m above sea level, you'll quickly see why above sea level, you'll quickly see why Unesco has declared half of the island a Diresco has declared half of the island a

On arriving in the south, head to the Gran Luxury Seaside Grand Hotel
Residencia, a Leading Hotel of the
World member. This hidden gem with
impeccable gardens and superb service is
a haven for relaxation by the magnificent
a haven for relaxation by the magnificent
Maspalomas Dunes and its 1,000-yearold palm tree grove. And the beautiful
old palm tree grove. And the ocean
Meloneras promenade along the ocean
front with stylish bars, restaurants and
front with stylish bars, restaurants and

In Gran Canaria, the offering is so diverse, you'll want to return for more!

www.grancanaria.com

is the perfect base from which to explore the capital's charming historical quarter, and puerto markets and the beautiful golden sand Las Canteras beach.

Combine the capital with a visit to the no-th of the island, home to banana plantations, authentic haciendas auch as La ReKompensa and highly regarded wineries. Visit the Finca La Laja and Los Berrazales winery in the Agaete Valley. This 200-year-olf farm produces its own wine, oranges, coffee and avocados, and is one of the island's best-kept secrets. And do not miss stand's best-kept secrets. And do not miss burveyors to the Royal House and Court Province and Court proving the fittle of the Spain from 1885. Honey rurr is Gran of Spain from 1885. Honey rurr is Gran Osnaria's speciality.

As you cross the island from north to south, opt for a scenic drive to Tejeda and the magnificent central massif of Gran Canaria. This winding road trip is a must, passing pretty villages and archaeological sites highlighting the island's pre-Hispanic beritage, eventually reaching the summit

From the sand dunes of Maspalomas and volcanic pools of Salinas de Agaete to the stunning historic quarter and epic culinary offering of the capital city Las Palmas de Gran Canaria — the options are endless on this sun-soaked island paradise.

And it's this variety of experiences that makes Gran Canaria the perfect twin-centre option for travellers seeking a fun-filled city break and a high-end beach holiday wrapped into one trip.

Fudiess choice and authentic experiences.

So diverse is this beautiful island that it is often referred to as a 'miniature continent', with plenty of activity options, a bounty of high-end hotels and stunning scenery at every turn.

A perfect twin-centre luxury escape could include the Gran Luxury Santa Catalina. A Royal Hideaway Hotel, in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Part of the Barcelo group and home to an outstanding Michelinstaired restaurant, this stunning property

Bang goes nothing Television

James Walton

zone, it's doing something wrong. middle-aged womanhood) and a meditation operates within an audience's ethical comfort ties of family life (with particular reference to as moral or immoral art. If a staging of Salome style thriller, an exploration of the complexiseems to have agreed) there is no such thing to Thursday, it brought together a Die Hardnice, but as Wilde once put it (and Strauss than one. Running every night from Tuesday against a weak and ineffectual Herod. It's not Crossfire was a three-part drama in more ways show her wielding immense sexual power Oscar Wilde's text and Strauss's music both Channel 5 presentation of Salome as victimised prey. Michael Palin: Into Iraq but there's a deeper problem in McVicar's pleasure? Phwoar! Yes, thanks, point made, BBCI cle-bound slave gets naked for our viewing Crossfire desires? Tut, tut - not here, she doesn't. Musgazey stuff. Salome strips off in pursuit of her

dan Shanahan's suitably imposing Jokanaan. man's blustering pea-hen Herodias and Jor-Daszak's wiry, reedy Herod, Katarina Dalayeast of brilliantly drawn earieatures: John ma's one fully realised character against a singing, she soars. She emerges as the drably, at the end of 90 minutes of full-power implacable. She snarls; still more remarka-- tightening and cooling into something orchestration, before - in the final scenes ing like a bloodstain across Strauss's silken is simultaneously rich and focused, spreadtesque is appallingly watchable. Her voice penetrating innocence) to brutalised groheiress (her wide eyes convey a horrible, and her progression from gamine society revival. Malin Bystrom returns as Salome, Two elements stand out in the current

erly sidesteps any of that reprehensible male-

fashion show, but it looks striking and clevthe Seven Veils being presented as a cinematic

updating. I'm not wholly sold on the Dance of

conducts an expressionist reading of Strauss's In the pit, meanwhile, Alexander Soddy

of our own dear Queen. ferent, how very different, from the home life ing head of the slaughtered prophet. How difas a near-possessed Salome fondled the oozclimactic dissonance felt rotten to the bone, ing, phosphorescent high woodwinds. The contrabassoon, slimy bass clarinet and shrillners of Strauss's orchestral mosaic - grunting out the awkward angles and dirty little cor-It's taut, it doesn't linger, and Soddy winkles strings and great baleful blocks of hom tone. score: Schiele rather than Klimt, with probing

At the South Bank, Paul Daniel conducted

gone straight on to my wish list. recorded for release by Opera Rara, and it's the coquette Zanetta. The whole souffle was Catherine Gillet bounced off the walls as the trouser role of Prince Raphael and Anneeffortlessly wry). Virginie Verrez glowed in replaced with a narration (Harriet Walters, nent of the opera-bouffe mix) stripped out and with the spoken dialogue (a crucial compo-Offenbach's melodies sparkle like dew, even in love with waxwork; can-cans ensue) but (Girl pretends to be waxwork; Prince falls sistible affection and flair. It's daft as a brush ing an almost forgotten score with quite irrede Trébizonde: an underrated conductor revivmance of Offenbach's comedy La Princesse the London Philharmonic in a concert perfortinctly Bunuel-ish dinner party.

Richard Bratby More depravity, please Opera

Salome

Royal Opera House, until 1 October

La Princesse de Trébizonde

Queen Elizabeth Hall

shouts of 'God Save the King!' And then the anthem to unfamiliar new words. There were King Charles's reign, we sang the national already been removed. For the first time in the huge gold-embroidered EIIR cypher had we could gaze at the curtains, from which in which the houselights were lowered and the director of opera, and a minute's silence a short, respectful speech from Oliver Mears, news came through. The second opened with ent Garden was cancelled when the solemn The first night of the new season at Cov-

an audience's ethical comfort zone, you as 'Maestro' and you'll be laughed off

States (expect a British orchestra to address

which was imported wholesale by the United

so many European artistic institutions, and

sparing us the epic pomposity that disfigures

the continental sense, and that's a good thing,

with the business of the evening, and the life

lights dimmed once more and we proceeded

of the Royal Opera.

Britain has never had a Court Opera in

gnorw gridtsmos gniob s'ti If a staging of Salome operates within

sumably, is what Her late Majesty tolerated, barely a third of the stage visible. That, preexectable, surely the worst in the house, with into the vacant royal box. The sightlines were one afternoon, I was ushered, temporarily, light touch. Arriving late at Covent Garden and British royalty has always been more stage). The relationship between the opera

uncomplaining, for all those years.

where the Tetrarch appears to be hosting a disonly a corner of the decadence above stairs, beneath Herod's pleasure palace. We glimpse ly greenish light illuminating the corridors Barbara Lluch it looks spotless, with a sickduction, and in the hands of revival director fourth revival of David McVicar's 2008 pro-Austria really mattered any more. This is the of the Habsburg monarchy, when nothing in Opera banned it outright until after the fall phemous, it's depraved, and the Vienna Court appropriate. That's kind of the point: it's blascumstances in which Salome would ever be Salome, it's also hard to think of many cirsuch a grave occasion than Richard Strauss's ficult to think of a less appropriate opera for Anyway, the show went on, and if it's dif-

Visually, then, it's an uncomplicated

as well have been carrying a banana as a

thy. For much of the time, in fact, she might

fused youngsters deserving of some sympa-

both Jo and the programme saw them as con-

ing them out in seconds. Here it meant that

for quite a short film, with Bruce Willis tak-

actual Die Hard, then, it would have made

by slaughtering its guests. Had this been the

the hotel for stealing and opted to respond

local teenage boys who'd been sacked from

was revealed. They were, it turned out, two

uine scariness that not all of them made it.

cally on lift buttons. It also added to the gen-

through empty corridors and pressing franti-

the three central families fleeing terrified

- mainly by having isolated individuals from

sion was cranked up with great effectiveness

from the manager's office and ran around in

fortysomething woman grabbed a shotgun

proof that we were in TV-drama world, this

though, Jo didn't hesitate. Instead, in further

wouldn't be Jihadis. Whoever they were,

sure about at this stage was that the gunmen

TV drama takes place, all that we could be

shooting people around the hotel pool while

a banana as a shotgun

as well have been carrying

For much of the time she might

enough. Until, that is, some gunmen started

tion-payer, the holiday began uneventfully

and a spot of sexting with her latest atten-

ly). Monetheless, give or take one public row

her husband did (making it not her fault real-

any man who paid her more attention than

top shape, what with her habit of falling for

at the time. Granted, her marriage wasn't in

her family and two others seemed a good idea

to book a holiday in the Canary Islands for

pretty well on the whole - though it was not

on the nature of time. Odder still, it worked

without moments of frank implausibility.

Keeley Hawes played Jo, whose decision

Given the strange parallel world in which

search of the killers.

spe was on her balcony.

Once they'd invaded the hotel, the ten-

Meanwhile, the identity of the gunmen

Laura Gascoigne Exhibitions

Edward Lear: Moment to Moment

extreme expenses...' tion from all varied topographical interest, dullness, - constant hurry & hustle - cessathe other side are, in England, cold, damp & greater novelty - & less expense in life. On flowers... warmth & light, better health lish, or Southern... The latter - olive - vine 2 extremes of affection for nature... Eng-It seems to me that I have to choose between

no bird under an Ostrich shall I soon be able a fellow ornithologist the year before, 'that 'My eyes are so sadly worse,' he wrote to artist was now also suffering from cycetrain. asthma and epileptic seizures, the myopic Rome on doctors' advice, aged 24. Prone to his name in his teens and headed south to natural history studies by which he had made Edward Lear in 1837 when he gave up the That choice was effectively made for

pattern of wintering around the Mediterra-Landscape painter', Lear fell into a lifelong Having plumped for a career as a 'dirty

A frantic collector of views

Ikon Gallety, until 13 November

soutchi Gallery, London TO DE HOROLOGICA TIL - HOROLOGICA SE Modern and Contemporary British Art ALI (US) BEANTISAMENTE A 되다고 다양스 нешна

9,000 sketches, some providing reference

of views - in a 50-year career he amassed

the travel bug, he became a frantic collector

ladies' drawing manuals. Having caught

his teens, teaching himself from his sisters'

he began drawing 'for bread and cheese, in

lasted a year at school, which he hated -

self. Self-confessedly 'half-educated' - he

but it was as an artist that he thought of him-

'The Owl and the Pussy-Cat' as an artist,

to have far more part with me, and I with

- trees, clouds, &. - and silence... seem

as warmly as old friends

he moved in, Lear greeted landscapes

Never quite at home in the circles

as warmly as old friends: 'The Elements

cles he moved in, he greeted landscapes

depressive, never quite at home in the cir-

are peppered with exclamations. Lonely,

a drawing of Savona. His pencilled notes

cold! O stones! O sand!' he scribbled under

he hailed the Nile in 1867; 'O wind! O

over. 'O sugar canes! O camels! O Egypt!'

of birds remained, but the landscape took

families with nonsense songs. His love

from patron to patron, entertaining their

nean and summering in England, dashing

them, than mankind,'

Not many people think of the author of

to inslowings VT sat Channel 5 has become having bureaucratic trouble at border cross-

Michael Palin: Into Iraq sees our man still

obliged to change much. And sure enough,

welcomed into a new home without being

Creatures Great and Small - are warmly

channels - Michael Portillo, Pam Ayres, All

place where venerable refugees from other

TV equivalent of old-school Radio 2: a

telt unmistakably and rather movingly like

female fantasy as being a kick-ass heroine,

which, while perhaps as much a middle-aged

per flirty ways from her teenage daughter -

over. She also received full forgiveness for

mittent and somewhat portentous voice-

had up till now been restricted to Jo's inter-

on time standing still vs time rolling on that

gave dramatic form to the abstract thoughts

have been the strongest - not least because it

the survivors had returned home, might well

Indeed, the final episode, set largely after

future but also how they come to see the past.

trauma rewrites not just families' ideas of the

what it was most interested in: the way that

like a cunningly telegenic illustration of

less like the show's chief focus and more

though it was, the hotel shooting seemed

that was before one of the boys threatened

shotgun, so reluctant was she to use it. But

her daughter...

And yet, whole-heartedly presented

the programme's real climax.

To its credit, Channel 5 has become the

old-school Radio 2

ings, still tucking into the local food with rel-

curiosity wherever he goes. ish and, above all, still exuding benevolent

the Tigris for 1,000 miles through the whole His plan for this three-parter is to follow

far are thousands of years old. potamia, where all the towns he's visited so long history wouldn't cut much ice in Mesoreminder that our current pride in Britain's length of Iraq - which serves as a chastening

Kurdish people,' a local explained.) of happy gunfire. ('Noise is important to combined a torchlight procession with a lot ebrations for the Kurdish new year, which climbed a large mountain to witness the celcapital of Kurdish Iraq, and as a big finish that, he hung out in some luxury in Erbil, the met,' he eventually managed.) Luckily, after fulness. ('I'm feeling inspired by the people I work hard to hang on to his trademark cheerthe Allies - where, amid the ruins, he had to years and liberated with extreme prejudice by them was Mosul - occupied by Isis for four In Tuesday's opening episode, one of

great surgeon. informative programme, he must have had a that, judging from this warm and gently serious heart operation. The good news is us that since we last saw him he's had a At the beginning on Tuesday, Palin told

David Roberts, Lear's 'poetical-topographlife with light. Unlike the tourist views of tours; they're flat transcriptions brought to His hills have horizon lines but lack con-Lear never really mastered tonal modelling. gone through the mill of academic training, as much as by their strengths. Not having Artists are formed by their weaknesses

300 drawings. gushed. In two days he produced more than scenes of more magnificence or wonder,' he a landscape painter could shape out ideal ing. 'No frenzy of the wildest dreams of monutrin bass provoking a lit of sketchthe melancholy beauty of this pine-clothed (see by 1) at sunrise, the washes run riot, of 'The Forest of Bavella, Corsica' (1868) der to dreamland. In two irridescent sketches topography and spirits them across the borhis landscapes from the realm of plodding al to conform to strict tonal logic rescues

as he is careful with his line; their refus-

He is as free with his watercolour washes His chiaroscuro is essentially made up. es from notes and memory in the evenings. put Lear's usual practice was to add washhas the freshness of on-the-spot colouring, A little sketch of 'Santa Maura' (1863)

ally indulge in what he called 'phibbing'. female', says a pencil note. He did occasion-'Opposite Calvi' (1868) - 'a dantesque

pass provoking a fit of sketching beauty of this pine-clothed mountain The washes run riot, the melancholy

from one of his nonsense illustrations into penguin-like creature seems to have strayed echoingly empty of figures, though a strange ing on Guitars'. His landscapes are mostly & 15 Ladies in pink and yellow satin playken pillars, upset capitals, immense gourds, they really are and not calling to my aid, bro-

to a page. He took pride in placing things 'as ability to transcribe topographical detail on had a rock-steady hand and an idiot savant's steamer. There's no trace of a wobble; Lear Crete? (1864) were captured from a passing as five minutes. Three views of 'Mount Ida, four of Dendera, timed at intervals as short temple of Maharraka, five of Amada and scapes, include four views of the Egyptian exhibition, the first to focus on Lear's land-The 60 sketches in the Ikon Gallery's new

in ink and wash made him very quick and set. Drawing in pencil to go over later tering the creep of shadows as the sun rose ferent angles and in different lights, regisprowl around a subject, catching it from difpared his master to a hunting dog. He would Lear's faithful servant Giorgio, who coming him on an outing, he was warned off by a fellow traveller suggested accompanying the itch to capture the moment. When for later paintings but most merely scratch-



Force of nature

Michael Hann

2mpilliW.A.A

until 18 November Queen Elizabeth Hall, and touring

O2 Shepherd's Bush Empire Mathy Peluso

They can be twisted into any shape, which omnipresent because both are malleable, to tick adolescent boxes. But they are also ly packaged into a set of signifiers designed matter that the rebellion is usually carefulsymbol of rebellion music has to offer - no one under 40; metal is still the most potent the lingua tranca of popular culture for anyand rock no longer does. Hip-hop is simply still represent youth in a way that lots of pop hip-hop blaring out of open windows. Both streets outside the cabs threaded past with Asia blasting through the beats, and in the val, where I saw bands from all over south a trip to Kathmandu to visit a Nepali festiwith local genres. A few years back, I took you go you will find these two alchemising world like metal and hip-hop. Wherever Few forms of music have colonised the

knocking you off your feet the waves crash over you without Her songs stay at the place where

.0891 mori today will sound very little like a metal band the chances are that someone playing metal much like an Americana band from 1980, playing Americana today will sound very means they do not sit still. Whereas a band

clean voice, bits of folk, even. known as post-classical, and, in her pure, there, hints of the music that has become planes. There's a good bit of post-rock in metal, but also exists somewhere between music that has indisputably come out of rang! and Metal Hammer. She makes heavy shirts. But she also gets reviewed in Kermade by men with ragged beards and plaid in woody sounding music of the kind often alists the Cocteau Twins, which specialises Raymonde, once of beloved 1980s ethere-Bella Union, the label founded by Simon Take A.A. Williams. She's signed to

and its predecessor Forever Blue sounds much everything across As the Moon Rests and beautiful. One might note that pretty cumulative power of it was both awesome its entirety, then three encores - but that the forthcoming album As the Moon Rests in styles with dizzying ease - she played her mg. It's not that she was skipping between Williams and her band were breathtak-At a disappointingly undersold QEH,

husband, Yussul, an artist with a glass eye.

a work a 'masterpiece' but this production clear bold outlines. One hesitates to call voids and shadows speak louder than the piece lies in its evasions and silences. The herself or not. The beauty of this exquisite But she won't tell us whether she introduced on his arm. Is this Yussul? Almost certainly. man with a glass eye and a number tattooed by a freakish accident she notices an elderly Years later, Rose emigrates to America and tion camp, is shot dead by a British bullet. age lad, who had escaped from a concentravessel and brutalise the passengers. A teennearly killed by British sailors who board her Affer the war, sailing for Palestine, she's

his bosses are white supremacists. advertising but can't get promoted because gay Pakistani, Bilal, who has a trendy job in with the latest men's fashions. He befriends a worker, he expects to dazzle west London his personal-grooming budget. As a textile benefit payments are insufficient to cover digs in Hounslow and he complains that his into surly resentment. He dislikes his cheap than celebrating his good fortune he sinks flees to Britain. His life is saved. But rather murdered by a homophobic gang and Zafar an affair with a married man. His lover is Zafar, a textile worker in Lahore, who starts of the Pakistani gay community. We meet The P Word focuses on the tribulations auns for and fulfils that ambition.

but Zafar doesn't care about that. chances of prosecuting him appear to be nil knows who led the gang: his own father. The the killers of Zafar's lover even though Zafar pendent since 1947). And his script ignores sexuality in Pakistan (which has been inderesponsible for the criminalisation of homofault with Britain. He claims that the UK is writer, Waleed Akhtar, is so anxious to find of this be true? It's hard to tell because the march to prove how gay he really is. Can any then told to take snaps of himself at a Pride his file: 'Doesn't walk like a gay.' Zafar is and down the room. A note is recorded in gration officer who asks him to parade up Zafar's case is heard by a nasty immi-

the traditions of his ancestral homeland. observe the faith more closely and to embrace Yet he prays devoutly and encourages Bilal to or illegal for them to express their sexuality. of whom live in societies where it is difficult there must be 100 million gay Muslims most too. He notes that one in 20 people are gay so And he gives the Islamic world a free pass

What can be stopping them? fer it to Lahore and see how that works out, to change people's minds, they should transhere. It's there. If the producers really want tural west London because the problem isn't it's pointless to stage this show in multicullence are accommodated and supported. But culture of Britain where those fleeing viomurdered with impunity and it pillories the ture of Pakistan where gays are apparently What a strange piay. It celebrates the cul-

> tor him. ing the moment, enabling others to enjoy it on paper. He invested everything in capturressed, hence the urgency of getting it down Earth while it is present,' he once conreverie. 'I hardly enjoy any one thing on qou,t bromote sightseeing; they prompt ical, landscapes have no substance. They

Lloyd Evans The sound of silence Theatre

Park Theatre, until 15 October

The P Word

Bush Theatre, until 22 October

As a teenager, Rose witnesses a raid by him. 'He was crushed to death by medicine.' a wardrobe stuffed with pills topples on to with him. Eventually he loses his life when as we could tell there was nothing wrong in bed. He never stopped dying but as far dad is a hypochondriac who spends all day theatre with warm, loving laughter. Rose's it like a professional comic and she fills the tury. In the opening sections, Lipman plays lived through the horrors of the 20th cenmonologue spoken by a Ukrainian Jew who does just that in Rose, by Martin Sherman, a laugh on 'unforgivable'? Maureen Lipman that unforgivable.' Could an actor get a Look at this line. I'm 80 years old. I find

They just smashed everything up.? tively benign. They didn't try to harm us. Cossack horsemen but their savagery is rela-

aims for and fulfils that ambition masterpiece' but this production One hesitates to call a work a

of six million people. nothing - and her silence contains the souls the Germans be ...?' After that Lipman says ther mistreatment. How much worse could of the Cossacks, she felt prepared for furelse's war.' Having witnessed the violence saw, she was unconcerned. 'It's someone 1939, when the Germans arrived in Wardodged the Nazi genocide in Ukraine. In right time. She left for Poland in 1937 and she finds herself in the wrong place at the never at the centre of events but somehow She gets through by accident. She's

she can't. At the same time, she loses her clear how the child died. Rose won't say. Or We had to go back to our machines. It's not the building and protect her daughter, Eather, from the ghetto but she isn't allowed to leave ic. One afternoon she spots flames rising ter in a factory whose owner isn't anti-Semit-Rose takes a job outside the Jewish quar-

had a ball and I did too. rating, frightening and hilarious: the dancers into an orgiastic danse macabre. It's exhila-

cally delivered. the curse of the Wilis had been less mechanimimed by Giselle's mother as she explains cée Bathilde. I only wish that the sequence Albrecht and his final reunion with his fiancation of the exposure of Giselle's seducer in 1841. Particularly helpful is his clarifiand corruptions since the ballet's première that has become encrusted with additions persuasive alterations to a choreographic text 19th-century classics, and he has made some mansky is a most thoughtful scholar of the Katmansky's new production of Giselle. Ratsheltered in The Hague, presented Alexei pany made up of Ukrainian dancers now At the London Coliseum, an ad hoc com-

deux. Things improved considerably in the and a routine account of the 'Peasant' pas de rather stiff and joyless work from the corps altogether under-rehearsed, thanks to some happier circumstances: the first act seemed was the dancing all that it might have been in escaping an air of make-do and mend. Nor the Coliseum's large stage and there was no in style bordering on the ropey, they didn't fit from Birmingham Royal Ballet. Traditional Sets (and costumes) had been borrowed

had a ball and I did too and hilarious: the dancers It's exhilarating, frightening

under Viktor Oliynyk. by the orchestra of English National Opera ity, and excellent playing of Adam's score lenko leading the ghostly Wilis with authorsecond act, however, with Vladyslava Kova-

a powerful sense of what it is to love, to be place comes more psychological nuance and real will-o'the-wispiness had gone too. In its ond act I felt something of her former etheinterpretation a decade ago and in the secthe winsome naivete that shone through her in her early forties, she has lost something of she arrived at the Royal Ballet School. Now caru, a Romanian who trained in Kyiv before Interest inevitably focused on Alina Cojo-

of weeks ago too, so I hope we can see more in the Mureyev gala at Drury Lane a couple élan and precision. He was strikingly good bounder and dancing with beautifully clean policyly impetuous rather than a heartless impressive, presenting the character as Ukrainian based in Hamburg. He was most Her Albrecht was Alexander Trusch, a betrayed and to forgive.

and with Ukrainian flags defiantly bran-British and the Ukrainian national anthems, a tad below her best. But bookended by the ever experienced and I suspect Colocaru was It wasn't the most polished Giselle I've of him soon.

dished during the curtain calls, it was cer-

est that Peluso seems most herself. spitting out the words and the beats are hardso' that's a shame, because it's when she's all-round entertainer than a hip-hop star. It configured to make her seem more like an world, and perhaps Peluso's current show is

Rupert Christiansen Make mine a triple Dance

Made in Leeds: Three Short Ballets

Leeds Playhouse, and touring until

3 November

Giselle

London Coliseum

one's morale, and the audience at the Leeds ranks. But this triple bill should boost everyrichly characterful dancers among the senior problems to address, not least the shortage of pal with the Royal Ballet, and he has several amiable Federico Bonelli, formerly a principer. The company has a new director in the Opera House at the beginning of Novemsouth to the Linbury Studio at the Royal of three original short works, which moves tory of Northern Ballet's terrific programme Good, better, best was the satisfying trajec-

Movember's elegiae return to the world of his First up was Wailers, Mthuthuzeli Playhouse was enthralled.

the overall effect is not without charm. dren. Its sincerity verges on the mawkish, but side benignly over a brood of boisterous chiltheir ankles, a mother and grandmother preship. Bourréeing on pointe with bells round childhood in a parched South African town-

bitter and vivid. made the couple's pain and uncertainties Northern Ballet's front-runners at present, tion; Abigail Prudames and Joseph Taylor, and diversion, but there is no reconciliamore. Friends in green provide consolation or what might have been or what is no representing either their younger selves, mirrored by another similarly dressed pair an emotionally battered heterosexual pair, couples therapy. In snapshots, we are shown gia, a harder-nosed venture into the knots of Next came Stina Quagebeur's Nostal-

mortar, everyone on stage is drawn deeper ist music pounds repetitively like a belt-fed adette Carpio). As Roger Goula's maximalbriestly figure (the sexually ambiguous Jona daemonic ritual controlled by a grotesque giant white panniered gown, and drawn into suit of an ineffable beauty, unobtainable in a we see him thwarted in his high-minded purin Northern Ballet's current repertory. Here seuted more conventionally in another work a riff off the idea of Casanova, a figure preby hip-hop choreographer Dickson Mbi. It's But the sensation of the evening is Ma Vie

> ont knocking you off your feet. place where the waves crash over you withnever topple over into noise: they stay at the whelm and using it to overpower. Her songs difference between using loudness to overingly good voice, too), and understands the melody to brute force (she has an astoundthrough a megaphone). But Williams prefers someone reading Wuthering Heights to you windswept, gothic sonic place (it's a bit like mournfully paced, and all occupy a similar more or less the same - the songs are long,

> son who wants to keep chuming out the same but Williams doesn't seem the kind of perest group in the history of recorded music the spot - just ask the Ramones, the greatmore. One can create a career by running on the time when we discover whether there is Her third album, when it arrives, will be

thing to ever-decreasing returns.

so has a significant Sapphic following - bras displayed their sexual fervour. Clearly, Pelusang and rapped along to everything, and crowd cheered before she came on. They si, every time). The young, largely temale name makes me want to write Nancy Pelo-Latin hip-hop, over from Argentina (whose force to greet Mathy Peluso, a young star of London's Spanish speakers had turned out in over in west London on Sunday night, where There was more of a party atmosphere

as a member of Pan's People dry ice like the Terminator recast Peluso high kicked through the

apparently offers in 'Sana Sana'). 'If I bend over, you can feel my clitoris,' she ting your five a day. Some are less subtle: are about eating, and not in the sense of getin translation suggests a great many of them what it once was, but looking up her lyrics ing of hip-hop vernacular in Spanish is not in her songs (I confess that my understandsexy, and Peluso places sex front and centre not the case but pop music is meant to be out to the crowd. It's easier to pretend it's lated the head of a rose before throwing it front me literally buckled when Peluso felhalf of the young lesbian couple standing in were thrown on stage, and the knees of one

South American pop is exploding across the hop. Though still a minority taste in the UK, good bit heavier on the Latin than the hipaltered the balance from her albums, going a ous energy of it all, but the live show slightly was easy to get carried away with the joy-Hard as you like! I won't feel a thing!) It prove himself. ('Go on! Punch my stomach! ploke in the pub who really, really wants to of one-armed press-ups like some bonkers stop. An hour later, she managed a burst member of Pan's People, And she didn't the dry ice like the Terminator recast as a punching the air and high kicking through in black leotard, leggings and sunglasses, She was a force of nature, coming on

tainly a uniquely stirring one.



you will be married, then married you will be.' But Catherine is spirited and adventurous and smart etc, etc., and devises increasingly ingenious ways to repel her suitors. She repels one (Russell Brand, suddenly popping up) when she meets him in the fields. He docsn't know who she is, so she tells him that Lady Catherine is a vile creature with a third ear on the back of her neck, and he's off. This seenario is repeated over and over, while she pines for her mother's younger brother, Uncle George (Joe Alwyn), which is weird. But, as the notes, he does have excellent teeth.

tired. Once more, I apologise. ity. Alternatively, I could just be too old, too view, this gives it a listless, plodding qualmischievous. Despite all the rebellion on done many times before and no longer feels by amusing intertitles, which we have seen their cages. Each character is introduced into windows or birds being released from is represented by light suddenly streaming is solid without being inventive. Freedom not by Piper! - while Dunham's direction ing satire. It's tame, often over-acted - but or sophisticated enough to be evisceratvellously silly and it's not precise, bold erwise it's not surreal enough to be mar-Only the small pox!' I laughed. But othmaybe it's the pox, 'but not the big pox. for Lady Catherine being in a grump, says when Lord Rollo, apologising to one suitor There are some decent moments, such as

It stars Bella Ramsey, known from Game of Thrones, as Lady Catherine, who is also called Birdy as she keeps birds as pets. It's the 13th century and Catherine lives in 'the village of Stonebridge in the shire of Lincoln in the country of England' and has passions that include 'avoiding chores, critiquing my father's horrible swordplay and listening father's horrible swordplay and listening through doors I should not listen though? We think that make her acquaintance as she's particitate make her acquaintance as she's particitation mud fight with her friend, Perkin flatulence, not for the last time. It does have flatulence, not for the last time. It does have a terrific cast. Her nursemaid, Morwenna, is a terrific cast. Her nursemaid, Morwenna, is

It feels like one joke or sketch that's been dragged out for nearly two hours

played by (for some reason) a deeply Scottish Lesley Sharpe. Her father, Lord Rollo, is played by Andrew Scott, and Billie Piper is her mother, Lady Aislinn. Piper doesn't get to do much – Lady Aislinn is the most underwritten character – but even Piper at all. (I love written character than no Piper at all. (I love Billie Piper. Top tip: if you've yet to do so, watch her TV series I Hate Suzie.)

Lord Rollo, meanwhile, has frittered away the family money and needs Catherine to marry someone rich. She has no choice in the matter. You are my only daughter. If I say

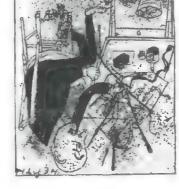
Cinema Fine but forgettable Deborah Ross

Catherine Called Birdy
I2A, Nationwide, and on Amazon Prime
from 7 October

gettably so. out for nearly two hours. It's fine, yet forlike one joke or sketch that's been dragged you know, is my favourite thing. But it feels the patriarchy gets a good kicking which, as less brilliance. It's fun, and endearing, and that spirit, but it does not share that time-Monty Python and the Holy Grail, as it has 'laugh very loud'.) It most put me in mind of to attend a hanging, for example. And also allowed to do. (She would especially like yearning to do all the things women aren't her father's attempts to marry her off while comedy about a 14-year-old girl resisting ed by Lena Dunham and it's a medieval Catherine Called Birdy is written and direct-

Dunham, who created the HBO hit comedy Girls, which is pure genius, adapted this from the novel by Karen Cushman. It's a YA novel, which I only realised latterly, but that makes sense, as the film seems to be simed at the teenage market, and the fact is among the following in the feenage in the fact is a may just be too old. (I can only apologise.)

Fountain pens



fountain pen was once a staple of every Rarely spotted today in classrooms, the

500 times... using a fountain pen, naturally. one to write out 'I will not use Biros in class' of a Biro. He would order pupils found using took a dim view of those caught in possession expensive Parker pens. Our English teacher whose parents were unable to afford more school, teachers would ridicule 'Biro-boys' even though it was less likely to leak. At my able ink flow, was considered far inferior, Dle Biro, with its scratchy feel and unpredictfor beautifully crafted calligraphy. The humbooks were considered a small price to pay gers, inky shirtsleeves and blotted exercise down for scruffy handwriting. Stained finschoolboy's satchel. Pupils used to be marked

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which do tend to leak. Or perhaps a Biro

the need for messy replacement cartridges,

in directly from the bottle, which removes

with a screw-operated piston, it sucks ink

want to consider a 'self-filling' fountain pen

must sign an important document, he might

is anyone's guess. The next time His Majesty

during such a solemn piece of royal protocol

hand sanitiser left over from the pandemic

or hairspray into the mark, or if you have

ages when they happen. Try rubbing alcohol

pen, there are ways to remove unsightly seep-

Namiki Yukari Royale or Kaweco fountain

remain wedded to their Pelikan Souveran,

King Charles III will attest. For those who

fountain pens have never been infallible, as

consuming than the quills they replaced,

units for squashed insects, belly-button fluff

they had become little more than storage

inkwells and by the time I went to school,

pens had long since removed the need for

er era, with their shallow inkwells. Cartridge

old Dickensian desks left over from an earli-

1980s will probably remember those creaky

Anyone who grew up in the 1970s and

and other schoolboy detritus.

Despite being cleaner and less time-

spray some onto the stain before washing.

Why the King was offered a dodgy pen

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> ments to the Royal Household. became the official supplier of writing instruthe Royal Warrant by Queen Elizabeth II and circles. In 1962, Parker pens were awarded

> although quills continued to be used in royal by the 1880s, they had largely replaced quills, became widely available across Europe and into ink. In the 17th century, fountain pens avoid the tedium of dipping traditional quills for technical drawing. It meant he could version of the fountain pen, which he used that Leonardo da Vinci constructed his own There is plenty of evidence to suggest

without fear of leakages.

reservoir. It allowed him to write at any angle Intionary new pen appeared that held ink in a where. Courtiers set to work and soon a revoa writing utensil that wouldn't leak everyal-Mu'izz demanded his servants find him tury Arab Egyptian ruler the Fatima caliph every warrant-signing session, the 10th-cen-Tired of having to wash his hands after

thing... every stinking time,' he added.

la, Queen Consort. 'I can't bear this bloody before handing the pen to his wife, Camilfast. 'Oh God, I hate this,' King Charles said, itors' pook at Hillsborough Castle near Belhappened when he was signing a vishave lost his rag over a leaky pen, as ur new King isn't the only royal to

By James Innes-Smith

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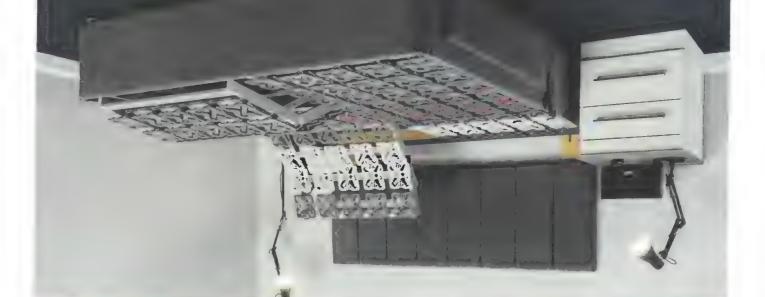
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as they say in the land of pasta. has anything to do with the rag. Punto e basta, wise. And do not ever facilitate any hack who never buy it, and urge your friends to do likeversive and perverse. Don't read it, certainly

Oneen who - unlike some of her descendants take for granted. So let's all emulate our late has given the world most of the things we beings. Privilege is good and healthy, and ic types like me look like superior human and ridiculous apologies make unapologetin breathless detail, but the skin-crawling era. They do it at length and in public and points, is the latest outrage of the #MeToo doing in the States in order to gain brownie in public, as some rich halfwit females are Unburdening the sins of their privilege

- never apologised for anything in her life.

THE SPECTATOR! 24 SEPTEMBER 2022 | WWW SPECTATOR, CO.UK

lade on the German lady's packet toasts and

and occupied himself with spreading marma-

English. The young Spaniard was monoglot

French. My clarifications were in French and

The nun asked supplementary questions in

lish, then the nun and her man in Spanish.

in the other two. She questioned me in Eng-

of these defects the cross-examination drew

comprehend and easily confused. On account

sonality but she was also quite deaf, slow to

my claim to have advanced cancer, and she

the numery, about my being alone, about

ly sceptical about a Protestant presence in

was cross-examining me. She was deep-

A manservant? A lover? The German lady

ship. Was he an unusually devoted carer?

to speculate on the nature of their relation-

35. It was impossible to tell but interesting

man lady's man was a Spaniard of about

in from the early morning mass. The Ger-

of the Angels; and me. We had just come

lady and her man; a nun called Sister Mary

nunnery kitchen: a 90-year-old German

We were four round the little table in the

She had a powerful, commanding per-

serving her with coffee.

wanted answers.

Jeremy Clarke

Low life

Unburdening one's sin of being privtion...Duh!

have more access to good-quality nutri-

seals say things such as 'Privileged people

the UK and in the old colonies. These trained

lege are actors and TV pundits, both here in

fall into line with this baloney about privi-

violence and illiteracy. Among the first to

underclass that prides itself in its ignorance,

are obsolete, and should be replaced by an

that monarchy, aristocracy and inheritance

the American media in general, have decided

New York Times, the Washington Post and

ble but I can tell you what they look like:

be caught dead socialising with such peo-

privilege for all of society's ills? I wouldn't

ing blowhards of the Bagel Times to blame

themselves so who are these snide, preen-

life for their children and, of course, for

age person endeavours to better his or her

grief, debt and very bad posture. The aver-

in their lives, and pass down nothing but

thing constructive or beneficial to others

who have never succeeded in doing any-

ones most opposed to privilege are those

funeral directors with piles.

And yet, the Savonarolas of today, the

no longer cherubic countenance. Any reaankles, the waist that has disappeared, the don't look so good no more at 41; the spindly because he swaggers like a footballer. She case. His suits are tight and look tighter dolled up for a court appearance in a libel tecito duo looked like a football couple, all outside Windsor Castle, I thought the Monbout with the Prince and Princess of Wales and Meghan. In the by now famous walka-Oprah Winfrey, which brings me to Harry with a mobile telephone has turned into an mentally deranged, a place where everyone ileged is the latest craze in the land of the

es aponjq realise that zebras tend to change sonable person in possession of their sens-

Never mind. Harry has for some time now but revert to type afterwards. their stripes during the period of mourning,

and on the side of everything criminal, subforces, anti-law and order and anti-marriage, Christian, anti-family, anti-police, anti-armed the average person believes in. It is antiand dedicated to the overthrow of everything The paper is one big lie, insufferably windy one from the New York Times approaches you. the dead Queen. Just remember that if anydepraved insults they have directed towards and others have finally had their day with the tered obscure academics such as Uju Anya ed by anti-Brit and pro-woke forces. Embitpeen a marionette, manipulated and exploitdescendants benefit from what he did. The plishes something others cannot, and his somebody somewhere somehow accomthe Hellenic sage, privilege derives when fessor Taki, writes otherwise. According to the Greek equivalent of Dr Johnson, Promeans discrimination and oppression, but constibated ones, privilege today actually ate chronic constipation. According to the tiple colonic irrigations in order to alleviinvention by lefty academics who use mulcultural ailment of the past. It is a recent neurosis, nor is it symptomatic of a larger

White privilege is not part of a broader

especially the white kind.

American ladies all become lesbians and get for what women want. My suggestion is that ly endowed, and have absolutely no regard known to suffer from halitosis and be poorthe creeps who are anti-Tom. Those types are eventually will have to endure, sleeping with is what about the poor women who are, or she was rather cute. What I'd like to know not supposed to do that, but my excuse is that Shock, horror! Back in 1789 gents were with her.

it over with. But let's get back to privilege,

Sally Hemings, his slave, and even had kids for old Tom because he was sleeping with Washington. No, the ugly ones have it in tain colonists starting with one called George himself, having sided with and advised cercollege fraternity, was a bit anti-monarchical Depraved, where the Bagel Times regards

trouble is that Tom, as we called him in my ful neoclassical buildings he designed. The demanded his name be taken off the beautison, some physically repellent creeps have greatest of all Americans, Thomas Jefferthe University of Virginia, founded by the even athlete's foot. In my own alma mater, cold, cancer, pimples, varicose veins and of most human ills, including the common monarchy as anti-democratic and the cause

last week, especially in the Land of the

types, and the subject came up rather a lot

Privilege at birth displeases wannabe

Taki

TILE

High life

— Dot Wordsworth, p62 would croak out his cruel cry shed tears freely and my husband Every now and then, a loyal subject

like Chekhov's dying bishop. The German transported, swaying unsteadily on my feet sublime singing, understanding nothing, class of alcoholic. ting, standing and kneeling to the nuns' has criminal convictions and they're a better Later I attended Vespers in a stupor; sit-

> deeply asleep. feet, beautiful faraway singing - then fell stream of urine, a flushing cistern, shuffling echoes - a shutting door, a tinkling bell, a took some drugs, listened to the cavernous made up the low single bed and lay on it, which was exactly what I'd hoped for. I and sink, an undecorated, spartan affair, For it was indeed, in spite of the wardrobe corridor at the end of which was my cell.

She led me up stone staircases to a dark

and His Boy. At the moment she was enjoying The Horse cles of Narnia - yes, in the original English. that she was presently reading the Chronicovering that I was English, she confided herself as Sister Mary of the Angels. Diswalls. On the echoing stair she introduced bag and followed her inside the Babylonian card. Agog with admiration, I picked up my expedient of handing her a picture postlady's runaway verbal train by the simple minutes, she adroitly derailed the German ly to the continuing monologue for a few answered the door. After listening patient-

I was greatly relieved when a nun ipje anccesa: at home. Which she did. And with incredpatiently educate him from first principles

which was exactly what I'd hoped for cell was an undecorated, spartan affair,

In spite of the wardrobe and sink, my

out her brother's mental wrinkles and to decided to make it her life's work to iron was the one word I got in edgeways.) She his-name in power. Hitler?' I ventured. (It

lad into a home. But she well knew that that a Mazi. He diagnosed a faulty gene owing ed. They took him to their doctor, who was Her younger brother was simple-minding up under the Mazis.

nable biographical monologue about grow-

I was English, she embarked on an intermi-

my nationality. After expressing surprise that

her young man silently following, and asked

period that the old lady came hobbling up,

before she arrived. It was during this waiting

bell, it might be a good five or ten minutes

it a nun had set off as soon as she heard the

ally important fortress. I guessed that even

side of a mountain on the scale of a region-

The 17th-century nunnery is built into the

standing with my supermarket bag for life.

day retreat. I'd rung the doorbell and was

before I'd even set foot inside for my three-

elderly German lady was at the nunnery door

The first conversation I'd had with this

would be the end of her brother with what'smother Latino. The doctor wanted to put the to miscegenation. Her father was Aryan, her

to let the children in the neighbouring house, where the landowner evicted us for refusing And then there's this stable yard row,

to be saying they don't want him because he

ings in Surrey where some members seem

in his efforts to attend support group meet-

detending a 64-year-old former bricklayer

behalf of someone else or myself at any

titudes. I fight at least two major battles on

time. Itoubles always come to me in mul-

be bothered. I just can't face one more argu-

peeping my horn, I thought: 'Let it go, I can't

cyclist, pedalling furiously along the lane on

bends and as I came round one, there was the

The cyclist was on the wrong side of the road

stone staircase to my cell and fell deeply

them all good morning, climbed the ancient

of them. Grasping my invitation I wished

five minutes' concentrated effort of all three

and transcribing of a simple address took

paper was eventually found. The dictation

one from the depths of her habit. A scrap of

you a pen? Let me give you my address

kind of a relationship, Please come. Have

made love, Paco and I. Never. It's not that

case you were wondering, we have never

me cannily with her rheumy old eyes. In

lumps of sugar into her coffee and observed

us if you are ever in Madrid.' She stirred four

istactory because she said: 'You must visit

searching questions had evidently been sat-

and her young man. My answers to her

breakfast table - this very old German lady

their stalls and in their stillness were like a

themselves comfortably and variously in

an hour's silent adoration. The nuns disposed

ing stackly off their faces. After Vespers came

their element, their medical face masks hang-

lady and her man were there and clearly in

composition in a religious painting.

And now here they were again at the

I didn't have a pen. The nun produced

It was a winding country lane with blind

I slammed on my brakes, but instead of

ment, ever again, with anyone.'

his hard right hand side.

Melissa Kite

Real life

asleep again.

and email.'

coming towards me head-on.

I never seem to get disputes one at a

given time.

I'm currently getting all kinds of flak for

correct side of the road. And as he went past in his fifties to steer his bike back on to the

So I stopped the car and allowed this man around like I had flu.

any more. Meanwhile, I was dragging myself

even he doesn't have the strength to argue He then blocked her number, because

would report her for fly-tipping,

them again on the land we now rent we her an email warning her that if she dumped

He delivered all the pallets back and sent

when push is coming to shove.

the BB, with the calm, stern look he gets

That's not happening, don't worry,' said that were broken when we moved in there!'

months putting right all the broken fences to have you working for her for free for more!' I yelled at the builder b. 'She's going Hor goodness sake! I can't take any

stable yard. post and rail together when we took over the pallets that had been holding sections of the

wooden pallets stacked up. They were the day to check the horses, we found a heap of

When we arrived at our new field the next given us back 'our pallets'.

The next text was unfathomable. She had

worromot gaidt tent ti come out to be put back in, then he would do

foot piece of cord she'd earlier asked to

The BB replied that if she wanted a ten-

save her gardeners from strimming it. graze off a corridor by the sand school to tion, made a gap in it to allow the horses to paddock ience where we had, at her sugges-There was a piece of cord missing from a had arrived at the yard and was not happy.

he got the first text message from her. She Half an hour after he put the phone down,

to fix it and she never did. promised to fix it or supply the wood for us on, her post and rail was smashed to bits, she installed because when we took the place to clear out all the temporary fencing we had treat us abominably. We had worked for days lease to turf us out after a few months and had completely breached our year and a half politely for renting to us - even though she politziend, who took the call, thanked her room and we wished her well. The builder ble at all, we had left the keys in the store

Instead of which we said it was no trouand injured. to trespass under the fence and get kicked we won't allow the neighbours' children leave a stable yard with four horses because having, dear, I felt like saying. We've had to her bad day. You want to have the day we're

She rang two hours later hysterical about turn up for the handing over of the keys. field down the road, the landowner did not harrowed and the horses moved to a new when all was empty and neat, the paddocks We cleared out of the yard this week and involved are being thoroughly obnoxious. Like all Surrey disputes, the people

access to our horses.

which she also owns, have unsupervised

Janet de Botton Bridge

Eighty teams entered and played for a most fun), is known as the Rosenblum Cup. and arguably the most prestigious (and the The Open Teams, the first event to be played World Championships in August this year. Wroclaw, in Poland, played host to the Open

week before two emerged as the finalists.

stars, captained by Nick Nickell, and the They were an all-American squad of super-

other had committed a murder. The arrestmen because they believed that one or the

pursuing a leaping sailfish I wondered if a

Quite a long time ago, police arrested two meun am couple of nearby surfers would be next on

well-fed and healthy big cat.

prey of baboons or antelope.

his spotted hide sleek and shiny, the sign of a

He took one look at us and bounded away,

with a very large leopard in broad daylight.

out on a drive when we came face-to-face

a few mornings ago my son Rider and I were

on the farm during the hours of darkness and

This adds a certain frisson to wandering about

easy it is to prey on humans it will kill again.

and the expectation is that now it knows how

teeth so that it was unable to go for its usual

leopard was an elderly creature with blunted

did not return. Old hunters speculate that the

corpse and set a trap for the predator, which

and wildlife rangers were called to rescue the

some sight of a half-eaten man. The police

strange and looked up to behold the gruebuildings of the ranch, smelled something

the tree, which was close to the farmstead

must have been intense and a man passing by

sume at its leisure. After a day or so the stench es of a tree, saving the rest of the body to con-

the man's head and torso into the high branch-

surviving off the land. The cat then dragged

been wandering around naked in the bush and

ranch hand, was mentally unstable and had

poor fellow, apparently the son of a former broke his neck and ate his lower half. The

next to us when a leopard pounced on him,

eaten, half of the evidence had vanished and

decided that since one suspect was already

the survivor arrived in court, the magistrate

ate one of them and left the other alone. When

near a lake on the Tanzanian border

suallowed a German hippie camping

When I was a boy, a python

had woken up to an approaching lion which

an anthill and in the middle of the night they from the train, he and his friend had slept on

The story he told was that after their escape

friend attached except for his severed hand.

still wearing his cuffs but with nothing of his

arriving at the station thirsty though unhurt,

of the suspects turned himself into the police, To everybody's surprise, a few days later one

riage window and disappeared into the bush.

the two murder suspects leapt out of their car-

when the guards were presumably fast asleep,

working on the line in 1899. During the night,

had famously killed and eaten 135 labourers

the Tsavo desert where man-eating lions

to Nairobi. The railway zigzagged through

men together and slung them on to the train

cuffs available and so they cutted the two

ing officers did not have two sets of hand-

so he let the man free.

Earlier this month, a man was on the farm

That animal is still out there in our valley

day when I saw a very large tiger shark up the Indian Ocean coast and so the other known of three people killed by bull sharks in the way of their path back to water. I've with hippos that attack especially if you get talo have killed a number of people along get away from the charging beast and butlow thorn tree where he had taken refuge to to lick the skin off a man's leg as he sat in a nian border. A buffalo used its rough tongue who was camping near a lake on the Tanzacompletely swallowed a German hippie hippo or bees. When I was a boy, a python elephant, buffalo, thino, snakes, crocodile, few people have died at the hands of lion, since records began in Kenya surprisingly pont. Tragically people do get killed, yet elephant sadly killed our immediate neighsavaged by a hyena. A few years ago an mauled by lion, and, the worst I ever saw, lo, grabbed on the ankle by a crocodile, people who have been gored by buffashare of animal attack survivors: I know Our home county of Laikipia has its

away from home. gets eaten by a leopard a stone's throw quite surprising when even today a man will survive only in memory. And so it is riors with their beads and flashing spears fire and adventures and great dances of wareverywhere and the good old days of gunour farmstead, the phone network reaches wildness is gone, the tarmac almost reaches us and the Ethiopian frontier. Today the Kenya's wild north with no tences between the tracks of cattle rustlers heading into found myself with my rangers sleeping on light on any horizon. On many evenings I at night and there was not a single electric tions blazed across the sky above the farm Until only a few years ago, the constella-Laikipia Plateau, Kenya

Ridan Hartley Wild life

everyone has been doing.

And I feel like that's a metaphor for what

being on the wrong side of things.

myself if necessary, in order to facilitate him through it into the field beyond, injuring Peugeot into the hedge and possibly straight that he was suggesting that I drive my little hedge I was almost touching, and I realised

I looked to the left of me at the tall, thick you to 'get over your side!'

cyclist pointy hand gesture, the one that tells me he yelled something and made the cross

over two days, which made riveting viewing Carlos Ventin. Ninety-six boards were played Argentinian/Swedish team captained by Juan

Today's hand shows Sweden's Frederon BBO for anyone who was interested.

defence against 44. Ventin, finding an unusual and interesting ic Wrang, playing with Antonio Palma for

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760 -

EW vulnerable

Dealer East

assa IIA \$7 **∓**7 yanos East 78235

and West, Antonio Palma, put up a sterner here in the replay, East, Frederic Wrang, In the closed room, 44 had made, but

THE SPECTATOR | 24 SEPTEMBER 2022 | WWW.SPECTATOR.CO.UK

time; Mickell took Gold, and many congratu-

to Ventin. Alas for them it wasn't enough this

an overruff by East. One down and 11 IMPs

no longer avoid the loss of either a top Club or

West getting in with the next Heart, he could

Ace of Hearts! As declarer could not avoid

with the ♠Q, Frederic elegantly jettisoned the

no trump promotion, but when South ruffed

could overruff the dummy. Today there was

tinued with the nine in the hope that partner

which West won with the seven and con-

Frederic played back his remaining Club,

nio ducked this, allowing East to win the Jack.

up his side suit by playing a low Heart. Anto-

came to hand with a trump and started setting

dummy and East unblocked the ten. Declarer

West led the King of Clubs, won in

lations to them. It was a great final.

SPECTATOR WINE JONATHAN RAY



Our SCC&CC being a Spectator rather er World Wine Awards. £32 down from £33. that it scooped Platinum at the 2020 Decantof autumn leaves. So glossy and refined is it blackcurrants, cherries, wild herbs and a hint AOC), it's rich, dark and concentrated with

spe'll let you know what she has left. est on 01353 721999. Tell her I sent you and If you're interested, call Laura Taylor soonand stand my ground when the time comes. But I'll get them delivered when she's out slapped a ban on me buying any more wine. Mrs Ray will be furious, of course, having I've nabbed myself a couple of double mags. this offer, there are a few of these left and our audience. And although not officially in double magnums. We like to think we know sensible to serve our vino in magnums and than, say, a New Statesman event; we felt it

and Wales. (sixes as marked) within mainland England As always, delivery is free for case orders

> .27.213 mort from £15.75. at Christmas, then I beg you look no further. spice. If you're looking for a scene-stealer ripe bramble fruit, vanilla, cedarwood and from the Médoc, it's fresh and inviting with

> Emilion so fine that it was no surprise to hear the 2016 Ch. Tour Baladoz (4) is a Saint-From a stunning amphitheatre of vines,

a perfect day on the river mistake, setting the tone for on bun Fri euoirolg a 2'11

down from £29.95. smooth tannins, Crikey it's good! £28.95 a hint of spice, touch of vanilla and silky judged, it's full of rich cassis and plum notes, promoted to Grand Cru Classé. Beautifully J-MG explain that the estate has just been

gant. With 85 per cent Cabernet (rare in this (5), a Margaux Cru Bourgeois, is just as ele-The 2018 Ch. Haut-Breton Larigaudière

> annual Speciator Clays, Claret and Cognac ty chipper overall and can declare our third nial fogginess, I'm feeling pretthanks, and while I admit to a cra-Tell we had a cracking day out,

> specially for us. In short, we had a hoot. rush-hour traffic as Tower Bridge opened even better and happily screwed up London's between Speccie readers. We ate well, drank relished that special camaraderie that exists editor (and poet) Martin Vander Weyer, and blunderbusses, were entertained by business from the boat with pump action shotguns and Thames Sailing Barge Will. We shot clays along the Thames in the 100-year-old Forty readers joined us as we pootled Cruise (SCC&CC) a thundering success.

> them available to our wider readership. of Private Cellar - also on board - to make we enjoyed that I persuaded Laura Taylor And so incredibly tasty were the bottles

Major-General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones. founded in 1952 by that vinous visionary, from England's oldest commercial vineyard, Hambledon Classic Cuvée Brut NV (1) We started with Hampshire's sublime

the river, £30. mistake, setting the tone for a perfect day on notes on the finish. It's a glorious fizz and no fresh citrus and apple with toasty brioche varieties, aged for three years, it's full of A blend of the three classic Champagne

you can. £16.95. gundy is in short supply; grad some while rus and creamy white stone fruit. Fine Bursupple and lightly honeyed with plenty of citalmost five years in bottle, the wine is soft, this is gorgeous. Still fresh and vibrant after since the Bollinger family took control, and followed. Quality has soared in the 25 years Villages (2), from an estate founded in 1750, The 2017 Domaine Chanson Mâcon-

price. An oak-aged, Merlot-based blend off just as successfully for a fraction of the as Ch. Tayet invariably knocked their socks Classe claret to his constantly parched pals ing that he'd given up serving Grand Cru our shipmates knew it well, one explaina Bordeaux Supérieur as exists. Several of ing 30 years with the company - is as fine winemaker Jean-Michel Garcion, celebrat-De Schepper family - introduced by head (3), the first of our three clarets from the The 2018 Ch. Tayet Cuvée Prestige



Private Cellar, 57 High Street, Wicken, Cambridgeshire CB7 5XR. www.spectator.co.uk/wine-club

Prices in form are per case of 12 except where * indicates six Tel: 01353 721 999 Email: orders@privatecellar.co.uk

on esiV\brenteseM	Total		
.07* S	*2018 Ch. Haut-Breton Larigaudière, 14%	00'8613	00.2613
.07∗ ⊅	*2016 Ch. Tour Baladoz, 14%	04.6413	6173.70
Ked 3 ∑018	2018 Ch. Tayet Cuvée Prestige, 14%	00.6813	61777.00
White 2 201.	2017 Domaine Chanson Mâcon-Villages, 13%	V/N	6203.40
Sparkling 1 *Ha	*Hambledon Classic Cuvée Brut NV, 12%	V/N	00.0813
Prices in form are per	e per case of 12 except where * indicates six	List price	Club price No.

October 2022.
is subject to availability, closes on 24
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I would like to receive up to date offers and communications from other carcfully selected organi Contact permission: I would like to receive up to date offers and communications from Private Cellar. —

Contact permission: I have week's Wine Offer is managed by Private Cellar. For full details on its T&Cs, email hello@mivatecellar.co.

tions team' in New York and London, telling them I was planning to write about what had happened and asking for a comment. Nothing. As so often when dealing with these Silicon Valley behemoths, it's impossible to hold them to account. There is no redress if they decide to terminate your account. So why has PayPal cancelled me? So why has PayPal cancelled me? I can only guess, but I suspect it's I can only guess, but I suspect it's because someone at the company

ic of the view that sex is a social con-PhD in biology and an outspoken crit-Colin Wright, an ex-academic with a ists on that issue. A journalist called has sided with the trans-rights activ-Pal, like most Big Tech companies, declare their gender pronouns. Paywith HR departments for refusing to ing people who've got into trouble fallen foul of another taboo - defendthe Free Speech Union may have lishes articles on those subjects and The Daily Sceptic frequently pubvaccines, and the 'climate emergency'. other Covid restrictions, the mRNA tical about: the lockdown policy and issues you're not allowed to be seeprecently, particularly on the three had their accounts closed by PayPal als with dissident political views have numerous organisations and individusome googling and discovered that isn't very keen on free speech. I did pecause someone at the company

struct, lost his account in June.

I expect the Daily Sceptic and the Free Speech Union will survive this attempt to demonetise them, but it's left me wanting to do something about this insidious new way of cancelling people. As the switch to a cashless society gathers speed, we need to put some laws in place to protect people from being punished by companies from being punished by companies from heing punished by the same from hei

sent the same message to the Daily Sceptic, the news publishing website I've been running for two-and-a-half years, and the Free Speech Union, the organisation I set up in 2020 to defend people threatened with cancellation. In both cases, PayPal was same reason – breaching the Acceptanting down the accounts for the same reason – breaching the Acceptive you a sense of how serious this give you a sense of how serious this give you a sense of how serious this fic's donor revenue is processed by PayPal and about a third of the Free PayPal and about a third of the Free

Speech Union's 9,500 members pay

ing' the same policy within minutes all three accounts be guilty of 'violatwas obviously bogus. How could tion. In my case, the excuse offered having to provide any proper explanaunder you, with no notice and without it could just whisk the rug out from on every transaction). I had no idea until now (1.5 per cent commission up and which I've been paying for ised to perform when I first signed PayPal to deliver the service it promon tight margins. I was relying on Union has 15 and they both operate on the payroll and the Free Speech The Daily Sceptic has four people revenue will be hugely disruptive. the emails - and the resulting loss of er some of them won't even open it's inevitable that some won't bothcessor. I'll do that, obviously, but them to use a different payment proemail all those people and advise So what?' you might think, Just their dues via PayPal.

of each other?

I tried appealing to customer services and got nowhere. I wrote to Vincent Belloc, the vice president of PayPal UK, and didn't get a reply. I contacted the 'corporate communica-

No sacred cows Cancelled again – the story of my life Toby Young



with no notice

nok sapun

mort tuo gur

just whisk the

PayPal could

I had no idea

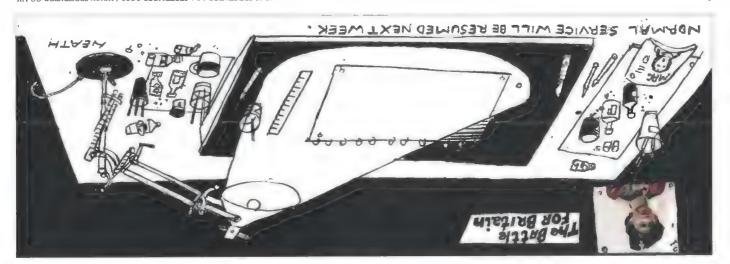
thought one of the benefits of being cancelled — I lost five positions in of 2018 — is that it immunises you from being cancelled again. After all, what more dirt could be thrown at me? The offence archaeologists did such a thorough job four years ago, sifting through everything I'd said or written dating beak to 1987, that there was nothing left to dig up, But it turns out nothing left to dig up, But it turns out celled again.

payments from European magazines the world. I mainly use it for receiving the account, but it wasn't the end of annoying because I have over £600 in to 180 days,' it said. That was a bit PayPal balance, we'll hold it for up mitted. If you have money in your was offered as to which one I'd comcovers a multitude of sins, but no clue icy'. I looked up that policy and it violation' of its 'Acceptable Use Polpersonal account because I was 'in pany was 'initiating closure, of my PayPal informing me that the com-Thursday I received an email from sites and so on. At around 2 p.m. last sor for online businesses, auction suq oberates as a payment procesthat supports online money transfers was PayPal, the technology company

I write for occasionally.

Then it got serious. Within a few minutes of contacting me, PayPal

MICHAEL HEATH



guys have to be taken so young? will be much missed: why do the good with an arm like a Roman catapult. He county. He could throw it there too, and could belt the ball into the next Job sound easy. He loved his cricket a beautiful voice, he made a difficult

afford a new kit designer. that's unlikely to be because they can't shirt with green trim, green shorts. And it to Saudi Arabia's soccer strip; white with green frim, green shorts. Compare United's new change strip: white shirt mean business: Just look at Newcastle work for three days. The Saudis clearly to pick up £3.5 million, which is nice and Dustin Johnson). He did manage where it was or who he beat (Chicago put I doubt many people know or care eron Smith won the last LIV event, sport will need to protect itself: Camthe cash on their LIV golf tour. The he Saudis are continuing to splash

pull in many spectators. regular tour events, which often fail to cut at 36 might make more sense for and the like - while 54 holes with a majors, the world golf championship tennis - for the really big events, the tournaments should be like five sets in needs to adapt a bit. Maybe 72-hole aligned, LIV will wither. But golf too and the ranking system. If they stay to work together, as do the majors DP World Tours are vital: they need be ripped apart. The US PGA and the So golf has to be careful if it isn't to

> Just chucking it on the ground as all handing it to the kit man, rather than

Qatar but he'll have had a month's It's a pity we won't see him in

restraints in his underground lab, and templates the bent bars and ripped entist is clutching his head as he conthe Arctic Circle, a wild-haired scisomewhere north of Tromso, deep in Meanwhile, in an underground lab

truth. A brilliant commentator, with wanted to entertain as well as tell the He loved his journalism and always tireless and devoid of any arrogance. true grant in every sense, funny, wise, with Eddie on the Observer. He was a privileges of my life to have worked charity trek in Peru. It was one of the when he died suddenly last week on a caster Eddie Butler was only 65 he great rugby writer and broad-

the other City players did.

there any limit to what he can do? the most gifted coach in the world. Is richest club with the best players and deadly weapon safely delivered to the nb the English Premier League: a in football, and now he has stitched Erling Haaland is like nobody else

50 goals out of the question? exhausted after World Cup duty? Are many opposing defenders will be gosls this season, especially when he is now. Who would bet against 40 could be even more terrifying than test when the season resumes, so he

thinking: 'My god, what have I done?'

to a river on their estate where

to lead wild swimming parties

with other women and likes

the wife is very competitive

husband is a known sweetie,

sportly to stay with old friends

are not too bulky, so wouldn't be

super-absorbent padding. They

disposable pants with excellent

packs of ten for around £8.25,

of his. I hear that while the

Q. My boyfriend and I are

noticeable under his suit.

and are essentially pull-up

club with the the richest delivered to uodpam A deadly

in the world gifted coach and the most best players



- Name and address withheld this prized invitation. loo. Hence he wants me to refuse may be difficulty accessing a social situations where there bladder control in high-level has developed anxieties about husband. Tragically, my husband has been a lifelong hero to my the presence of someone who a small but formal dinner in Q. We have been invited to

neatly rolling up his training top and

too good: the other day he was filmed

you or me. And his manners can be

gians who speak English better than

otherworldly, unlike most Norwe-

English is slightly awkward, a bit

language programme that means his

trom a tiny bug in some computer's

more or less the perfect creation apart

runs everyone else on the pitch. He is

that curious stiff-armed gait as he out-

moments, he moves effortlessly with

ruthless than anyone else in football

tist, faster, bigger, stronger and more

ciearly designed by some dotty scien-

looking creature from the far north,

not literally, yet.) He is an outlandish-

ing the grass of the Etihad? (Though

blue of Manchester City and devour-

mighty frame squeezed into the light

dic legend is bang in front of us, his

prise beheadings when the real Nor-

tous andity, multiple dragons and sur-

Game of Thrones. Who needs gratui-

from the far north

Roger Alton

Sport

The big beast

to The Lord of the Rings or

gazillion-dollar TV prequels

on't bother watching those

and effortlessly leaping higher too.

Quick to smile, often at awkward

though rather than incontinence this problem. It sounds as A. Nurse Kate steps in to address

A.H.Ato be a killjoy by not swimming. My boyfriend doesn't want me riverbank trying to get in or out. they scrabble and slither on the are shown at a disadvantage as while her novice female guests can show off how athletic she is, there is no jetty. This is so she

it can remain on the riverbank marvellously original present as he thought it would make a at another riparian property, chuckle that, having seen one λοη σικιλε γουν δογγίελη καη before your visit, and when Have this delivered to the friends steel ladder from Argos (£55). A. Order a (2.8m when extended)

məy uəjois

or that he had to admit he had

himself only because he was a

to reply either that he helped

in Glyndebourne? The pear-

approaching with friendly

the mystery by acting daft,

A. You might have solved

- C.M.Y., London

guest of the Christies (possible)

регодина рам регод россед

help ourselves? Is it all-inclusive

eyes, Excuse me, but can we all

demeanour and widened childish

spoiling his evening - or mine?

what should I have said without

is lighthearted and celebratory,

atmosphere on these occasions

tamily. Should I have confronted

one of the carefully tended trees

not a member of the Christie

in the garden. He was clearly

audience plucking pears from

him? If so, given that the

as a permanent fixture.

a well-dressed member of the recently, I was astonished to see Q. On a visit to Glyndebourne

Food

Ianya Gold

Italian underworld

he does not understand loss. eyes, though momentarily. Perhaps sings her blues - he does raise his appears - there is a singer, and she to order. When Sally Bowles herself

lic; a tiramisu, the finest trifle. pomodori with dense and sticky garand rich penne arrabbiata; insalata di doesn't live here any more; a doughty which is surprising, because grandma a lovely and delicate chicken broth, melone, which is as good as it gets; We take a vast plate of prosciutto e whimsy or narcissism: it is loved. Italian food, but it never crosses into and he knows his trade. It is delicate ed from the Bulgari in Kensington, chef, Graziano Bonacina, was recruitto be, though these are early days: the The food is far finer than it needs

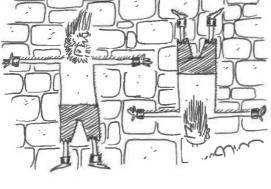
I think Bardo is the restaurant Park within a cellar, and the wine closes in. restaurant is a cellar, so this is a cellar quite sinister wine cellar. This whole a table set for two in a minute and As we leave, we pass a special room:

turns to ash. early, as I did, before your glass coach tator reader would like Bardo, but go at least initially. I would say the Spec-American Psycho, it wasn't conscious, even a memory. If I am paraphrasing car park or, more likely, nothing, not gone, and replaced by an office or a could return tomorrow and find it all Above all, it feels ephemeral, as if I if you don't call it by that name. easier to be an authentic underworld restaurant in Soho, wants to be: it's Row, the Indicrous Batman-themed

London SWIY 4HX; 020 3828 2487. Bardo St James's, 4 Suffolk Place,

> I would have stolen one. thought I could have got away with it, Hackney, and I covet them, and if I antercom to the loo are by House of and righteously. The chairs in the if you listen to them. So can chairs, democracy, but cushions can say a lot much about the fragility of liberal design is. I didn't know it cared so Weimar, but that is where restaurant dreams. I am sorry to bang on about long, low salon of all Sally Bowles's

> doesn't raise his eyes from his iPhone just my friend and I, and a man who in nightclubs, and you can tell.) It is (Its owner, Luca Maggiora, began Italian restaurant: full of expectation. nightelub that is also, incidentally, an is almost empty, which is how I like a dusk, though - I eat early, primly - it faint depravity circulate like air. At the dimmest of lights. Money and Art Deco bar, a bandstand, a piano, chairs, white tablecloths, a greenish Bardo is all beautiful: red velvet



a little bit archaic about the whole institution. I ventured to suggest that there was something

לולפ מוד cinculate depravity and faint Money - is a vast new Italian restauname which reads like a map ardo St James's Restaurant – a

duck - but it did. it was just us, the waiting staff and the was £100. I thought it wouldn't last – restaurant where a performative duck a gloomy and magnificent Chinese trict it was at the Imperial Treasure, robust. The last time I ate in this dispalaces by Pall Mall are surprisingly it feels flimsy - but these restaurant in a night, like Cinderella's coach qu blot bns nwob blot bluow (nisgs think Bardo (I am not typing all that things that never die. You might sado-masochism are among the many which goes on because snobbery and Mall and The Phantom of the Opera, aces off Trafalgar Square, near Pall rant in one of the pale imperial pal-

in London for many years - and the women - I haven't met a rude waiter I like this. Beyond that are charming you have to fight with to gain entry. a closed red velvet curtain, which the basement, and beyond the lift is The entrance to Bardo is a lift to

I suppose I don't like the idea eyes,' There you go, then. using a handkerchief to wipe her sang. One woman was seen through the service as the choir the congregation were tearful the report said: 'Members of up as choir sing.' Underneath, the headline: 'Congregation well St Paul's, one broadsheet had

and lava welled up. But a person centuries, water, smoke, blood 'that gonnen up to welle'. For less swollen through tears has someone's heart becoming have long welled up. Chaucer of a person welling up. Tears



In coverage of the service at (Jesus burst into tears.) Standard Version already has welled up.' (The International language version as: 'Jesus word longer in a future easyverse in the Bible would be a weep did not exist. The shortest welling up. It is as if ory and mouming public that they were deprecatory remarks by the private discourtesy were self-

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

QuilleW

There was many a tear in the Elizabeth's coffin. paying their respects at Queen from Westminster Hall of people watching the hypnotic livestream it seemed wrong. For we were his deranged behaviour, but now Normally, I'm not ashamed of accent of a Texan oil prospector. my husband in his idea of the We got a gusher!' exclaimed

sid as gnivonns as teomlA croak out his cruel cry. freely and my husband would then, a loyal subject shed tears to blub openly. Every now and eye, but the convention was not

tablets. Well!

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is a brand of herbal virility

in local history,' let alone,

sense from, 'He was well up

it has a completely different

had been doing well up to now,'

well up, I can't imagine. In, 'He

How foreigners cope with

in the 2nd century after Christ.

Greek novelist from Alexandria

translation of Achilles Tatius, a

before 1989, of all places in a

welling up is not recorded

hard. But now I find that that

challenge.' Mastering it is well

We are well up for the football

Mordsworth —

The Telegraph



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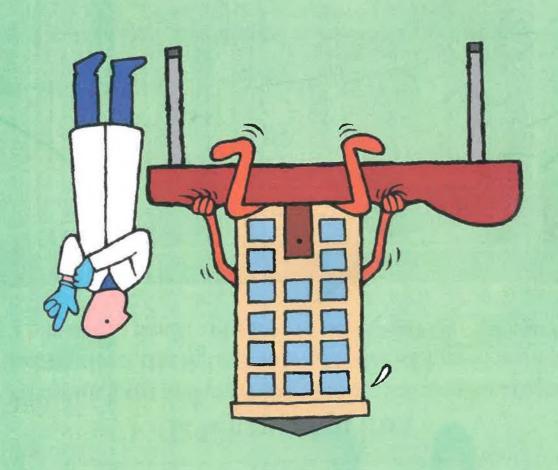


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